

# THE HISTORY

OF THE

Swedish Countess of *Guildenstern*,

IN TWO PARTS.

PART I. Shewing the exemplary Behaviour of the Countess to her Husband, during the first Period of her Marriage; also, Her circumspcct Conduct while a (supposed) Widow: Her generous Motives in the Choice of her second Husband; and, Her steady Love, in rejoining the Count, at his Return:

PART II. Setting forth the Count's Sufferings in Malabar and in Siberia; together with what occurred at Home and his Lady in Holland and in England, after his Return:

Completed with *Relates* (17)

Several English Events to draw other Passages introduced in other Part of this History: *11*

Collected to recommend

An early Attachment to Virtue in young Ladies of an illustrious Family; also, a becoming Conduct in Adversity, and a spontaneous Relinquishment to our Religion.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for J. SCOTT, at the Black Swan in Paternoster Row.

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about translating it, was his foreign Ex-



Author of the Productions of his own  
Country, for which he is celebrated  
all over Europe: especially concerning  
the Art of Writing here, where  
Books of this kind are rather less  
common.

## THE TRANSLATORS

# PREFACE.

over more than once, and discovering  
every time their Teachers for painting  
the Practice of Social Duties, and a



Of the following History  
has the Good-fortune to  
please, I shall have Rea-  
son to blame myself for  
my Doubtfulness, and shall

not know what Excuse to make for  
having mistrusted the great Character  
which it bears in Germany, where  
the Author of this Piece is the Favou-  
rite Writer at this Time. What dis-  
heartened me at first, as to setting

about translating it, was its foreign Extract, and the prevailing Talent of an Englishman, namely, that narrow Admiration of the Productions of his own Country, for which he is censured all over Europe; especially considering it might not quadrate with the present Taste of Writing here, where Books of this Kind are rather less serious and solid than our Author's: Nevertheless, having read the Original over more than once, and discovering every time fresh Touches for painting the Practice of Social Duties, and a Philosophical Resignation to our Destiny portrayed in the most vivid and indeleble Colours, I did at last, for the sake of propagating these important Topics, attempt to offer it to the candid English Reader, who, it is presumed, will admire the Author's happy Turn in conveying his grand Doctrines, and perhaps excuse the Translator for his Deficiency in preserving the admirable Spirit of his Author.

But

But lest I should be supposed to refer to imaginary Authorities, concerning the Character which this History bears in Germany, it will, I think, be sufficient for me to remove this Suspicion by mentioning two or three Circumstances which will serve as Vouchers for what I have offered: And first, Dr. Luther, a Gentleman eminent in the Law, at Francfort, to whom I am beholden for the Copy from which this History is translated, in his Letter to me of February 28. 1749. which mentions his sending it me, says, "Conformable to your Request I  
 " send you a select Piece of German  
 " Writing, which it is pity should be  
 " reckoned among Novels, because of its  
 " useful Turn, which tends much more  
 " to Instruction than to Amusement."

In the next Place, the Compiler of the Francfort Literary Gazette, of Feb. 14. 1749. in his Article from Eiplick, after he has given Notice of the Publication of this History, expresses him-



self in the following Manner; Tho'  
 Germany never has swarmed with so  
 many Novels as France; yet our na-  
 tural Fondness to imitate our airy and  
 polite Neighbours, has produced se-  
 veral Scribes to translate most of the  
 French Novels, tho' in many of them  
 it is difficult to find out their Design,  
 and in others none can so much as  
 guess what the Author has aimed at,  
 and therefore do not deserve to be  
 read. In the mean time The Tra-  
 vels of CYRUS, the Life of MART-  
 ANNE, CLEVELAND, SETHOS, and  
 some few more of equal Goodness,  
 are the more valuable, and the Satis-  
 faction we receive from reading them,  
 makes ample Amends for our Pa-  
 tience which we bestow upon the  
 many indifferent and insignificant  
 Memoirs which are thrust upon  
 us. We may venture to say, that  
 the History of the Countess of G-  
 merits the same favourable Recep-  
 tion, with which the PAMELA of  
 England

# [vii]

of England, and the Maximæ of  
 France, have been deservedly ho-  
 noured; the Morality thereof being  
 equally exemplary, and the Cha-  
 racters drawn in as regular, strong,  
 and lively a Manner; the Fables ap-  
 pear in a rational Series, not with-  
 out a close Connexion; they are  
 moving, and excite a serious Atten-  
 tion. He who can read this little  
 Work without being pleased, and  
 at the same time instructed, must cer-  
 tainly be void of all Humanity as well  
 as Genius, and deserves to be pro-  
 hibited reading at all. In the mean  
 time it is hoped, the judicious Readers  
 will agree in this, That if any Ob-  
 jection can be made to this Work,  
 it is on account of its Brevity; a  
 Circumstance which always tends  
 to the Credit of any Writing, if its  
 Perspicuity is not hurt by too stu-  
 pid an Adherence to the former.  
 Now you may see that our Author is a Man very well  
 versed in the English Language, and

As to the Author's Name, though he has not decorated the Title of the German Edition with it, yet we have thought fit to retain it, since the Compiler of the abovesaid Gazette mentions him under the Name of GELLERT: And I have very lately had the Honour to be admitted into the Company of two German Gentlemen of Distinction, now upon their Travels, and at this Instant in London; who are personally acquainted with the Author of this History, whose Erudition and Capacity of judicious Writing they were extolling, and particularly that incomparable Piece (as they were pleased to call it) of the SWEDISH COUNTESS. At the same time they favoured me with another Piece of his Performance, which has been but very lately published, and is intituled, LETTERS, with Practical Rules for Good Letter-Writing: From which latter Book it appears, that our Author is a Man very well versed in the English Language, and who



who inspects our Writings very nar-  
 rowly ; as may be judged from what  
 is contained p. 117. where he makes  
 this satirical Remark, [“ Among the  
 “ Letters which have been written in  
 “ our Times in the German Language,  
 “ the familiar ones which have been  
 “ published in Dantzic, have gained  
 “ great Applause. In fact, we ought  
 “ to wonder why we are still so de-  
 “ ficient in good Letters and Novels  
 “ in our Language, considering that  
 “ we have made no small Progress in  
 “ Rhetoric and Poetry : Are good  
 “ Orators and Poets not capable of wri-  
 “ ting good Letters also ? Do we not  
 “ find it by Cicero, and Pliny ; and  
 “ among the modern Writers, by  
 “ Chaulieu, Racine, Rousseau, Vol-  
 “ taire, Pope \*, and by many others ?  
 “ Are we above writing Letters, or do  
 “ we think them too troublesome ? Is  
 “ our Language too rough and undigest-  
 “ ed ? Or do we write more Letters in  
 “ Foreign Languages than in our own ?  
 “ Or

“ Or are we fit only for such Rhetoric  
 “ as requires Art and Trouble? Perhaps  
 “ it is for one of these Reasons that we  
 “ have as yet no more Letters ex-  
 “ pressive of good Taste.”] And then  
 he puts the following Note to answer  
 the above Reference\*. “ Perhaps every  
 “ one will not find in his (Pope’s) Let-  
 “ ters what may be expected from so  
 “ great a Man. How nicely has one of  
 “ his Countrymen distinguished the  
 “ Characters of Letter-writing! I speak  
 “ of the Author of CLARISSA; for,  
 “ notwithstanding the greatly diversifi-  
 “ fied Persons of that Work, from  
 “ Clarissa even to Arabella, he makes  
 “ every one of them write in such a  
 “ manner, as others would have ac-  
 “ tually written in the same Circum-  
 “ stances. And this Master-piece of  
 “ Genius deserves as high a Place among  
 “ Letters as it claims among Novels.”

These Considerations, which have  
 been premised, who will not think suf-  
 ficient Inducements for me to try, whe-  
 ther in Return for his Attachment to  
 English

English Works we should think fit to receive his Performances with equal Kindness? Which Expectation is surely not unworthy of the characteristic Generosity of the English Nation; nor, as we hope, of the candid Reader, and,

*His very humble Servant,*

**The Editor**



night. We should think it to  
 receive his performance with equal  
 kindness? Which expectation is less  
 by not unworthy of the character  
 the Generosity of the English Nation;  
 nor, as we hope, of the candid Reader,  
 and,

The copy printed for the Author,

The Editor

THE  
HISTORY  
OF

The Swedish Countess of G\*.

IN TWO PARTS.

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PART I.

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Consisting of a

NARRATIVE as well of the Fortunate as  
Disastrous Revolutions of her LIFE, in  
Livonia, Sweden, and Holland.

THE  
HISTORY

OF  
The Swedish Colonies of G.  
IN THE PAST

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PART I.

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Containing a  
NARRATIVE as well as the  
Description of the Colonies  
in the Swedish West India  
Islands.





# THE HISTORY.

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**W**ERE I to observe the Method of Novelists, who commonly introduce their Heroes with an Account of their Pedigrees, I should perhaps not have wanted Matter to trace my Descent more highly as they often pretend to do, especially in Cases where they have scarce any Ground for such a Subject: But because I am not proud of my Ancestry, and because my Parents died when I was in my Infancy, I have given myself no Trouble about my Genealogy, and am contented with what I have been told concerning my Father, to whom they give the Character of having been a Livonian, of noble Extract, and of great Integrity; but of a narrow Fortune.

After the Death of my Father my Uncle took me into his Family. He was a Man who in his younger Years had applied himself to Study, and lived, at the Time of the Commencement of this History, in the Country, where he had the Education of his Children

at heart, and where I had the Advantage of being brought up amongst them, till I was sixteen Years old. I still remember what he once said to his Wife, when she asked him, How he would order it about my further Education? In the Morning, replied he, Miss shall have the Education of Men, and in the Afternoon that of Women. My Aunt who never had had a Daughter, lov'd me dearly; and, wanting to keep me always about her, was uneasy to see me obliged, like her Sons, to learn foreign Languages, and other vain Pedantries, as she us'd to call them. She therefore desired her Husband, more than once, to excuse me from attending these studious Exercises; but to no purpose: Be not afraid, Madam (said my Uncle once to his Wife upon this occasion), that Miss will learn too much; for I do not intend to make a Scholar of her, but only to acquaint her with what is requisite for a prudent Woman: She has no Fortune, you know, that can recommend her to an exalted State, or enable her to live independent; for which Reason she ought to be endowed with such Qualities as are admired by Men who prefer Virtue to Riches, and fix their Happiness and Comfort of Life in being contracted to a prudent and agreeable Person. My Uncle, I must own, spared nothing towards advancing me in Knowledge; and I actually believe I should have

have arrived sooner at mature Understanding had my Aunt died a few Years earlier. 'Tis true, she did not keep me unacquainted with Housewifery ; but at the same time she raised in me such an Appetite to Gallantry, as might easily have turned into Haughtiness. She would often shut herself into her Room with me, and dress me up in the finest Manner; then lead me to the Looking-glass, and tell me that I looked like an Angel; then undress me again, and still admire me. I own, I was at that time but young, yet old enough to imbibe a Vanity which seems natural to our Sex: But, fortunately for me, my Aunt happened to die before I was ten Years old ; and her Death put me under the entire Care of my Uncle, who soon destroyed those idle Impressions which I had received from my Aunt's Maxims and Conversation. I had a natural Propensity to be good ; wherefore my Inclinations were govern'd by encouraging, more than by curbing them. My Uncle first taught me to set about the Regulation of my Passions ; and, by degrees, changed the Pleasures with which I indulg'd my Eyes, into such as besit the Excellency of the Soul. He was not insensible of my thinking myself handsome ; and therefore endeavoured the more to make me acquainted with a right Knowledge of myself, and to represent the Advantage of taking Delight in such Facul-



ties as beget an inward Pleasure in one's Mind, and which surpass all the Satisfaction which we conceive from popular Admiration.

If any of my Readers think that my Uncle deliver'd himself to me according to the Rules of Rhetoric, and in florid Expressions, they may be assured of the contrary; for he conveyed Religion to me in Terms more intelligible; and convinced me of the great Advantages which attend Virtue, in our different Degrees of Age as well as Station; not only in prosperous, but also in adverse Conditions; at the point of Death, and even after our Dissolution: All which Truths my Uncle had the Art to demonstrate in such a manner as that they were easily remembred, and not difficult to be understood by me; and it is owing to those Conceptions, that in my riper Years I never look'd upon Virtue as a Burden, but regarded her as the surest Guide to direct us in our Journey thro' this World: Which makes me believe, that the Precepts of fundamental Religion are as capable of illuminating our Understanding, as they are necessary for the mending of our Hearts; and I am persuaded, that a great many would shew more Skill in their several Professions and Callings, had Religion been early imprinted on their Hearts. But, not to go further in my Digression—my Uncle never obliged me to a tacit Acceptance of  
what.

whatever he advanced for my Instruction ; but rather bid me doubt and scruple at what should be above my immediate Comprehension, till by my own reflecting and examining into it, I should be convinced of its Truth. In short, he instructed me in That Wisdom which communicates itself from the Understanding to the Heart, and renders us moral, affable, generous, and content ; whereas many satisfy themselves with frothy Notions, which only serve in Conversation, to impose upon such as cannot well distinguish solid Sense from superficial Smattering. But, lest it should be doubted, whether my Uncle succeeded in endowing me with all these noble Sentiments ; and lest I should be thought to persuade the Reader into a Belief of my good Qualities ; I shall say no more upon that Head, but pursue the History of my Life without magnifying or condemning myself ; leaving to the Justice of the Reader, what Constructions he shall put upon my Conduct, since I am apprehensive that after a most genuine stating as well my fair Actions as Inadvertencies, I shall nevertheless be suspected either of Ambition, or of false Humility.

I was sixteen Years old when I was married to the Swedish Count G\* who was possessed of an Estate in Livonia contiguous to my Uncle's Premises ; which happened to  
prove

prove instrumental to my Exaltation : For, about a Twelvemonth before my Marriage, the Count and his Father came to spend part of the Summer in Livonia ; and because my Uncle was his nearest Neighbour, the Count used to visit him ; and at such Times it was that he beheld me employed in my domestic Affairs ; but he had scarce seen me twice, before I perceived that he liked me, without my endeavouring to attract him : For how could I think to captivate a Man of his high Rank, who myself, as well in Descent as in Fortune, was so much inferior to him, he being a Colonel of a Regiment, and a great Courtier, very rich, and handsome withal ? Notwithstanding all which, I find it was my good Luck that I used no Diffimulation, nor Art to win him, but rather behaved free and open to him, instead of endeavouring, by preudish Airs of Modesty, to make myself seem valuable ; or thinking my Virtue exposed, because I spoke to him audibly : For tho' in fact he was dear to my Heart, yet the Thoughts that I never should be courted by such a Man, moderated my inward Wishes for him.

After the Count was returned to Sweden, he had not been many Months there ere he wrote to me ; and the Whole of his Letter terminated in the Question, Whether I could resolve to become his Wife, and to follow him



him into Sweden. This raised an agreeable Surprize in me ; and the generous manner in which he offered me his Heart, put me into an Ecstasy of Love for him : For there is a certain noble and most bewitching way of expressing one's true Regard ; in which the Judgment has the least Share, since the Heart itself acts the chiefest Part in it : But to understand me here the better, the Reader is desired to give his Attention to the Letter itself.

Dear Madam,

I Love you. Be not astonish'd, my good Lady, at this Confession ; yet if you cannot help being surpriz'd at this my Boldness, permit me to affirm, upon my Honour, that the Fault arises from my Sincerity alone. Give me Leave, dear Lady, to proceed : But, what can I say ? I love you — This is All ; and I lov'd you from the first Moment that I saw and spoke to you. I declare indeed, that I have endeavour'd to banish you from my Thoughts, since the Circumstances of my native Country required it : But all has been in vain, and my Efforts have only made me more certain of the Reality of my Love, and of your Merits. Is it possible, that my Fondness for you should offend you ? — I hope not : For why should you scorn the Love of one whom you have permitted to shew a Regard for your Person ? But, will you forbear re-  
senting

senting now, when I speak the Sentiments of my Heart more openly? May I ask you, *Whether you can incline to love me; and, Whether you can resolve upon becoming my Wife, and with that Intention to follow me to Sweden?* You are too generous to refuse an Answer to a Question on the Result whereof so much depends, with respect to myself. Ah! Dearest; why is it not possible for me to know this very Moment, whether I am deserving of your Favour; and whether I may hope? Consider, Madam, without perplexing yourself, what Answer you can give to a Lover whose Tendernefs and Value for you he counts his greatest Merits. I would not too sensibly agitate your Heart—Take what Time you will for Deliberation; but consider how long every Moment will be to me, before you shall let me know my fate. How eagerly should I solicit for your Love, were I to pursue my Inclination according to the Force of my Passion only! But—no—Your Love is too precious to me to boast of, unless you make me possess'd of it by your own Choice and Consent. As shocking however as your negative Answer would prove to me, it shall not lessen the Love and Esteem I have for you: For why should I hate an amiable Object of your Sex, because she does not choose to yield her Heart to me for ever?—I shall rather continue to value you, and think myself undeserving of Success. How hard is it for me to close this Letter;  
and

and how readily would I wear out the Pen, in setting down numberless times, that I love you; that I love you incessantly; and that I watch all your Looks, in Hopes of discovering from them something in my Favour. Fare-well! Ah! Dear Madam, when will you answer me?

This Letter was sent, together with one from the Count's Father, to my Uncle; and it was not long after, that I became the Bride of a gallant Lord. I could wish I were able to tell what passed in my Heart from that Time. I had never loved before. But how romantic, perhaps, will this sound to many of my female Readers, who will be apt to think that I was deficient in every Faculty that is engaging, or else charge me with Stupidity, because I could say nothing about amorous Intrigues in which I had a Share, tho' now sixteen Years old! But, let it be either to my Honour or Shame, the Reader may believe me, that I never had loved before, though my Uncle did not debar me from conversing with young Gentlemen: But now my Heart at once began to be sensible. My Count, indeed, was above two hundred Miles from me; but Love brought him before my Eyes; where-ever I was, he was with me: Nothing was more handsome, nothing more perfect, than he: I often (tho' by myself) thought

I



I spoke to him, and that he would embrace me, but that I flew from his Arms. This, no doubt, will be thought ridiculous by the greater Part of my Sex; but they ought to know, that an innocent and tender Bride is in fact a Creature of another World, which cannot be considered without Astonishment: Her Features, her Speech, her Gait, and all her Actions, turn Informers of her Heart, let her conceal it ever so industriously: I hardly eat or drank for several Weeks; yet nobody could discover the least Change in my Complexion; and I became more and more fond.

As soon as Matters were settled, my Uncle took a Journey with me to Sweden, and several Gentlemen and young Ladies accompanied me a considerable Way at my setting out: At last we parted, but not with so much Grief as I had apprehended, my Friends being more rejoiced at my ensuing Happiness, than sorry for my leaving them. And here, perhaps, it will be objected by Novelists, that I should have introduced a Scene of seducing or ravishing me: But how would this agree with the Love I bear to Truth, were I, for Method sake, to charge an Act of Villainy upon any of my Company? Besides, what would it have availed to use violent or soothing Means to alienate my Heart from the Count, whom I was absolutely resolved to make the Sovereign there? We proceeded  
also

also in our Journey unmolested, and arrived safe and well at the Country Seat to which the Count then was retired. I was transported at the Sight of him; and I thought him much handsomer and more amiable than he had appear'd to my Eyes the Summer before. But this may easily be accounted for; because when I saw him in Livonia I did not know that he loved me, whereas now I was sure, that he had a most tender Regard for me. A Person commonly becomes more perfect and meritorious in our Eyes, when we are confident of his Love to us: And tho' he should have no great Advantage of recommending himself otherwise, yet his Affection to us makes Amends for his Imperfections: For what is more pleasing to us than to be assured that we are loved? And how can Love become constant, unless it is supported by mutually delighting in the Object of our Love?

My dear Lord, the Count, welcomed me in the most tender manner; and I doubt whether it is possible to be more happy than I then thought myself by his Side. Our Marriage therefore was consummated soon after my Arrival, in a plain, private, but, certainly, most satisfactory manner; for I had not been above one Week in Sweden, and recovered myself from the Fatigues of my Journey, when the Count desired me to

fix upon a Day for our Marriage : To which I returned, That indeed I thought no Time too soon to have the Honour of becoming his Wife ; yet that no Day should be more acceptable to me than that which he should chuse himself for that Purpose. And thus, without further consulting, we fixed upon the next following Day.

In the Morning he visited me in my Apartment, and asked me, whether I maintained my Resolution of becoming Lady To-day ? To which I answer'd him with half-averted Eyes ; and received from him an ardent and sincere Kiss. I was then dressed in an indifferent, yet well chosen Suit. You please me mightily in this Dress, said the Count to me : It fits your Shape, and you make it look handsom upon you ; I think you need put on no other Dress this Day. If You like me in it, my Lord, replied I, I shall think myself dressed very suitable on the approaching Occasion. The rest of that Morning was chiefly spent in discoursing together, in the most tender manner : At last I sat down to the Spinnet, on which I play'd about half an Hour, and, at the Request of the Count, seconded by my own Heart, joined my Voice ; till Noon came on, about which Time the Count's Father (his Mother and only Sister being dead) and my Uncle came to us, and having made their Compliments



ments, informed us, that the Minister was come ; upon which we descended into the Parlour: The Ceremony of our Marriage being over, we four and the Minister sat down to dinner ; and I do not remember that our Table was served with more than six or seven Courses. Several married Ladies of my Country, and Station, will look upon our Wedding-day to have been celebrated after a poor manner ; but I assure them, that it gave infinite Satisfaction to me, as I was entirely free from that Noise and Hurry which is common at Wedding Feasts, and which cannot but disturb the new married Couple. After Dinner we went in a Coach to Sir R—, who lived not many Miles from us, and who had been my Husband's Companion in his Travels, on which account he had a particular Esteem for that Gentleman. Here is my dear Lady, was my Husband's first Speech to Sir R—, to whom I have been married this very Day : Don't you think I have an excellent Judgment in chusing ? Pray bear Witness of our mutual Happiness, and give us your Company back to our House ; to which Sir R— consented ; and thus we returned home, without stopping, and passed the Evening away as contentedly as we had the Noon.

I remember now that I have not hitherto described my Husband, and therefore beg

leave to do it in this Place. He was of a brownish Complexion, and had such a dazzling Lustre in his Eyes, as was enough to strike an Awe in a timorous Beholder of them, who should take notice of no other Part of his Face: But a Softness of his other Features moderated the Fierceness of his Eyes, and made him look with an Air of Generosity, inclined to Tenderness: He was also tall, and well grown. More I shall not mention, lest being too particular in describing him I should lessen the Beauty of his whole Picture. Sufficient it is that my Count was the most handsom of Men in my Eyes.

Soon after our Marriage, my Husband was ordered to his Regiment: But to make his Absence more tolerable to me, his Father took me with him to see his other Estates which he had in Sweden. It happened at one of these Places that I met with a young and very handsom Woman, who was said to be the Widow of the Steward of that Estate. This Woman was charming in her Person, and discovered something so pleasing, and so humane in her Conversation, as immediately gained her my Favour, and soon after my Friendship. I intreated her to accompany me in my Return home, and to live with me; assuring her at the same time, that she should not be

be a Servant, but my Companion; and when she should chuse to be no longer with me, that I would provide for her in a genteel manner. She accepted indeed of my Offer with Tears in her Eyes, but excused herself from following me, partly on account of her young Son, and partly because she delighted in a still and retired Life. In the mean time she was always near me, and shewed such a Regard and Love for me, that I could not forbear pressing her to tell me in what manner I might do her Service. But she generously refused all my Offers, and desired nothing but my Favour. The old Count was now ready to leave this Place; and while the young Widow was conducting me to the Coach, I saw a Child standing at a Window of one of the Out-houses. I ask'd whose Child it was; and I observed some Confusion in the good Woman's Face at this Question; for she had persuaded me that her Son had newly had the Small-pox; and had denied me the Sight of him, under Pretence that it might give Offence to me: But I observed no Disorder in the Child, and therefore insisted upon having it brought to me — But alas? how surpriz'd was I to observe the very Picture of my Husband in his Face! I was not able to speak one Word to the Child, but kissed it, embraced at the same time his Mother, and slept immediate-



ly into our Coach. The old Count finding me thus confounded, did not leave me long in Perplexity, but acquainted me with the whole Secret; which he did in such a pretty and open manner, as demanded my closest Attention. The Woman, said he, which you have seen, was a former Mistress of your Husband's: But if this Confession gives you any Offence, pray be not angry at my Son, but at me, who was the Occasion of it. He was brought up by me in such a particular Manner, as perhaps in several respects will seem strange to you. My Son was obliged to love and honour me, not only as his Father, but also as his Friend: He never need to fear me, but when he concealed any thing from me; which made him to be always open to me; and I had by this means an Opportunity to draw him from many Follies before he committed them, at least before he contracted a Habit of them. I knew that my Son loved a certain young Woman whom my Sister had taken into her House as an Orphan, and to whom she had given the same Education with that of her only Daughter, because the Child shewed a great Liveliness and Forwardness in her Learning; and he had never made a Secret of this to me. When he set out for his Travels, he besought me, that I would permit him to take this Woman with him abroad to be his Companion,

panion, under the Name of an Acquaintance: And I, either to weak to deny him such a Request, or on purpose to save him by this means from those Extravagancies into which Youth is apt to fall, gave my Consent that she might follow him: And this is the very Woman whom you have seen, and who passes for a Widow. She is a Person of excellent Qualifications; and I have settled 10000 Crowns upon her, that she may marry whenever she pleases. I have also set apart something towards the Education of her Son: But if this Woman gives you Offence, I will soon assign her a Place at my Estate in Lsivonia, where I will take care that she shall live to her own Satisfaction.

After such an Account of my Husband's former Mistress, who would not have thought that I should break out into Anger and Hatred to her: No! — I loved her nevertheless; and that Love moderated my Jealousy, which otherwise might have reigned the supreme Passion of my Soul: All I did was that I begged of the old Count to see her well married, and to remove her from her present Place of Abode. In the mean time we pursued our Journey, and I had the Satisfaction to see my Husband when I came home. And now notwithstanding I was very well assured of his sincere Love to me, yet could I not be at rest, till, behaving myself

self indifferently upon some trifling Occasion, I forced him to draw a Secret from me with which I would not part, without putting him to some Uneasiness. He was astonish'd when he heard it, and was sorry that his Father had been so inconsiderate to carry me to a Place which might have proved very prejudicial to our mutual Love. However he immediately gave Orders to remove this Woman and her Son; and allowed her every thing suitable for the Maintenance of both: All which was done in less than a Week's time. What greater Proof of his Fidelity could I desire? It was impossible to hate him one Moment on account of this Affair, tho' I could not esteem myself free from all Uneasiness.

He told me, that he should certainly have married this Woman, had the Court and his Father not been against it. In fact, she deserved such good Luck as much as I; for I did not find wherein I was preferable to her, unless in being born of noble Blood; and how trifling is this Preference, if rightly considered. She had not thrown herself away out of Wantonness — Matrimony was the expected Reward for yielding herself and her Heart to him. — The Count's Father had approved his Son's Choice; and she knew the noble Heart of her Lover. A Woman whose Love has engaged such Circumstances, ought



ought rather to be pitied than reproached. To assure me still more of the Alienation which was between their Love, my Husband related an Action really worthy of Carolina; which shall be the Name of my Husband's former Mistress, throughout the Sequel of this History.

As soon as she perceived that 'he could not obtain Permission to marry her, without the Hazard of his Fortune, and the Loss of the Favour of the Court, she voluntarily quitted at once her Right to his Heart. He shewed me her Letter, writren to him upon that Head; the generous Contents whereof were so affecting to me, as to put me upon doubting, whether I could have behaved with the like Greatness had I been under her Circumstances. The Letter runs thus.

*My Lord,*

*I* Hear that you are very much thwarted in your Resolution to declare me your Lady: I pity you, because I know that you love me, and that it cost you as much to banish the Thoughts of your Promise to me, as it does me to quit my Claim to your noble and generous Heart: However, since I must lose you, my Lord, I will lose you honourably. To be brief, my Lord, I freely sacrifice my Love and Satisfaction to your Happiness, and distinguish'd Condition; and abandon the Thoughts of ever becoming

becoming your Wife: You are free, and at liberty to make what other Choice you please; I am contented, if I do but find that you make a happy one, and that you meet with that Satisfaction which I should have endeavoured to afford you. Heaven knows that these are my true Wishes; and whence could the Sincerity of such Wishes arise, unless from loving you? I reproach you with nothing — It is evident to me, that you have fully answered your Promise; for I am convinced, that you would have fulfilled it, provided it were in your Power: Neither shall I ever accuse myself of having been too weak. I have been yours, yet not without a previous Assurance of being openly declared as such, at some proper Time; and thus I never made a Sacrifice of my Virtue to you; the Remembrance of my Love, therefore, will always afford me the greatest Comfort, let my future Fate seem as hard to the World as it will. Enter into Matrimony, my Lord, and for the future never think of me otherwise than of a Friend: This Reward, I think I deserve. Farewel, my Lord, and assign me a Place at one of your Estates, where I and my Son may live in Tranquility. Give yourself no further Trouble about me; I abide by my Resolution, to shew you, that I prefer your Fortune to my Happiness. Farewel my dear Lord.

Such

Such were the generous Sentiments of Carolina, to whose Resignation I owe the Possession of the Count. After this Letter they had one Interview more, and then she went to the Place where I had seen her. My Husband assured me that it was a Year and a half since he had spoken to her last; and I would willingly have afforded her the Satisfaction of conversing with him once more before she departed for Livonia, if I could have thought it adviseable.

My Count, in the mean time, doubled his Endeavours to please me, tho' Heaven knows he was the most endearing, the most tender, and most noble Man that can be imagined. He had lived sober and regular before he took to the Army, and therefore had not contracted that rough and wild Habit which frequently shews itself in Gentlemen of martial Profession. He was all Goodness and Humanity, yet stood the Domestics in such Awe of him, that a Wink of his had the Effect of a positive Command. As to me in particular, he seemed perfectly condescending: It was impossible for him to deny me any thing; for he was pleased whenever I gave him an Opportunity to grant me a Favour: But notwithstanding his most ready Acquiescence, in the midst of his Fondness to me he knew to cast such an Air of Superiority as demanded my highest  
Regard



Regard for him; which made me cautious to gratify my Inclinations in ought but what I thought would be agreeable to him, and what he himself would have urged me to with the Force of Command, if he had expressed himself in that haughty Style.

In his Occupation, he was the most regular Man, without confining himself to set Times; for he loved neither a sedentary nor hurrying Life, but did Business at proper Times, and in Moderation; whence he was always lively and alert, because he never fatigued his Spirits with dull and vain Labour. Whilst my Husband had been upon his Travels, he had purchased several large Parcels of choice Books, which being put up along with his former ones, made a very handsom Library: Here we spent many Hours with the greatest Satisfaction; and here I became sensible of the Advantage I had reaped from being educated among my Uncle's Children: For being well acquainted with Latin and French, and not a Stranger to Italian, I could amuse myself in a most agreeable manner with reading Authors in those different Languages: But never did I think myself more happy in my Retreats to the Library, than when I had my Husband by my Side, who had the Art of chusing such Books for me, as gave me a true Relish of Literature. And tho' I was not  
always

always ready in giving my Judgment of an Author's Excellency, or wherein he was deficient, yet I had generally the Good-luck to join in my Husband's Opinion. And thus we spent our Time in adding every Day to our Profit and Pleasure; for we lived in a very tranquil and private Manner, without either receiving or making Visits. My Husband entertained me, I him; and the old Nobleman our Father contributed to the Joy of us both. This Gentleman who was above three-score and ten Years old, discharged the Functions of six Persons. His Experience in Learning, and his contented and honest Heart made him always appear gay and lively in Conversation; and I believe that in three Years time he had not one Hour's Uneasiness of Mind; for so long had my Husband and I liv'd with him when he died. But, how exemplary and instructive was this Man's End! His Illness proceeded from a Swelling in his Legs, which communicated itself upwards to such a Degree, that it was above the Skill of the most able Physicians to stop its Course: But, notwithstanding the quick Approaches of Death, our Christian Hero behaved with the utmost Calmness and Composure. Finding his Malady to increase, he asked the Doctor how long he thought he still might have to live: According to my best Observations, answered

swered he, your Lordship's Life can't last above three Days longer That's well, reply'd the old Count—God be thanked that I am gone through my Pilgrimage so well—Still three Days left of that Life concerning which I am to give an Account to my Creator! I think I cannot spend my remaining Hours more profitable, than by my own Steadiness to shew to those who are about me how easy and how happy it is to die, for one who has lived an honest and virtuous Life. Upon this he ordered all his Servants to be called up: And as they stood before him, he praised their Honesty and Fidelity in their different Posts; and intreated them to have Virtue always before their Eyes: I have been your Lord and Master, said he to them; but Death takes off all Difference between you and me: I am going into a World where you and I shall be Equals; and where you and I shall be equally rewarded for our good Deeds. Farewel, my Children; whoever amongst you has a Love for me, and is willing to please me once more before I die, let him give me his Hand, as a promisory Token that he will observe those Lessons and Rules which I have always endeavour'd to cultivate in you for the Advancement of a happy Course of Life: And then he ordered a certain Sum of Money to be given to every one. His  
chief



chief Employment of this and the next Day consisted in sending for the greatest Part of his Tenants, to whom he talked in the same tender manner as he had done to his Servants. To such as had had Money advanced by him to put themselves in a way of Living, and were in Arreas to him, he returned their Bonds and Notes; and gave them leave besides to ask him some Favour which should consist with Reason. He had very few of his Tenants who were poor; by reason that he afforded them his Aid and Assistance seasonably, and did not defer his Bounty till the close of Life: No Wonder therefore if they were seized with the highest Sense of Sorrow and Concern, for the Loss of him who had been a Father to them instead of a Landlord. After these good People had left him, weeping and lamenting for the Loss of him, the Count asked, whether there were still some in his House who had not taken Leave of him? I answer'd, that I did not know of any unless the Soldiers who waited on my Husband. Let them likewise come in, said he; they are no less dear to me than the former: These People in particular ought to know what is Death, because they are more exposed to his Power than others. Accordingly they were sent up to him; and they entered the Room with a hardy and martial

Air: But the old Count had scarce begun to talk to them, before their bold Looks changed, and they were moved to shed Abundance of Tears. He ask'd them, how long they had served? And he was informed, that most of them had boren Arms about twenty Years. O! said the Count, you deserve to taste the Sweets of an easy Life; for you have suffered Hardship enough in so many Years. I will speak to my Son to give you your Discharge; and to allow you double the Pay which you now have, even as long as you live, for your Subsistence: Moreover, I permit you to settle in one of my Villages, without paying either Rent or Taxes. This was no small Comfort to those poor Men, who shewed their Gratitude for all these Favours; and one of them in particular did a singular Service to my Husband afterwards.

The good old Count, having fatigued his Spirits this Day very much, and Night drawing nigh, turned to his Physician, and asked him once more about the Time of his Departure; and heard with the greatest Undauntedness the Doctor tell him, that his vital Spirits would cease to act in less than twenty-four Hours. Upon this he desired some Food to be brought him; of which he took Part, drinking with it a Glass of Wine. Good God! (began he) how well  
this

this goes down : I eat as heartily now as I did fifty Years ago : But had I not lived regular and temperate, my nutrimental Vessels would not be now in a Condition to afford me that Sweetness which at this very Time I enjoy in my Food. Now (continued he) will I refresh myself with some Hours Rest against my setting out for the new World.

Accordingly he compos'd himself, and slept three Hours. Being awaked, he sent for me, to look for a Manuscript, bound up in the Manner of a printed Book in his Bureau. This contained the Transactions of his Life for the Space of forty Years backwards ; which he desired I would read to him ; and which lasted to Break of Day. When I had read it through, he ardently pray'd to God, and in an estatic Manner thanked him for all the Blessings which he had bestowed upon him in this World ; beseeching him, to grant, that in the World to come he may be a true Professor of those Truths and Virtues of which he had been an Emulator during his transitory Life. He then sent for his Son ; who entering and standing by my Side, the departing Count embraced us both and began to weep. These Tears, said he, are the first which I have shed in forty Years, and more : They are not, however, Tokens of Concern or Fear,



Fear, but of my Love and Affection. You have made my Life pleasant; but the Happiness which I expect after Death, makes my leaving you the more tolerable. Let your Love to each other be sincere, and enjoy the Life which Providence has given us for our Satisfaction, and for exercising ourselves in Virtue.

After this he gave me some Rules concerning the Education of my Children, if God should bless us with any: And whilst he was thus occupied and concerned about the Welfare of his Offspring, he expired.

Upon the Decease of my Husband's Father, we lived several Years, chiefly at our Country Seat, with the greatest Satisfaction. At last he was called to Court, and I followed him. I had scarce made my Appearance there, but was highly esteemed and admired. It seem'd none was more handsome, none more polite, and none more perfect than me: The many Addresses which were made me, and the soothing Speeches which filled my Ears, put me into such Confusion that I did not know how to recover myself. To my greatest Mortification, my Husband received Orders to march, and I was to stay behind. It was said, indeed, I should soon follow him, but it was three Months before I saw him again. I stood now in need of all the Philosophy which I  
had

had learned of my Uncle, my Husband, and his Father, to keep me from becoming vain and proud: The Honour which was shewn me every where was a very dangerous Snare to a young, and (as People would have me be) beauteous Woman, who never before had frequented with Courtiers.

A certain Prince of S—, who was actually married, and therefore could have no honourable Views in flattering me, took Advantage of my Husband's Absence. He watched every Opportunity to shew me the high Respect he had for me; and gave me such a Preference as might easily have made me suspected by other Ladies at Court. Sometimes he would venture to speak to me of an Inclination and Passion, for which I abhorred him; yet had I not Power enough to shew myself indifferent to him, on Account of the great Reverence which he always paid me, and which he had the Art to prefix and to join to every Part of his Speech.

I really was as honest and as virtuous as Woman can be; but, I believe, not grave and serious enough in my Deportment to this Prince; which made him perhaps suppose that he might venture to use bolder Steps with me. He happened to visit me one Afternoon, without sending me previous Notice of his coming; and he soothed  
and

and courted me in a very genteel Manner : But perceiving him bold enough to use some Liberty to me, I stopp'd him : Permit me, noble Prince, said I, to send a Messenger to your Consort, and to acquaint her that you are with me; which will perhaps procure me the Happiness of her Company also. There is no occasion for it, answer'd the Prince; my Consort is as much in my Thoughts as if she was personally here : So is my Husband to me, interposed I, altho' he is in the Fields. Upon this he made a slight Compliment, and left me : But how revengeful this Man behaved to my Husband on Account of my shunning the former's illicit Designs to me, will appear from what follows.

Not long after this my Husband returned from the Army; but had not been many Days at home, before he was forbid the Court by a Messenger sent to him for that Purpose. This was done by the Instigation of the Prince of S—, and was the first Specimen of his Vengeance for having disappointed him in his amorous Expectations. However, the Loss of the Favour at Court did not much affect us: We retired directly into the Country; and I told my Husband, without Hesitation, what had passed between the Prince of S— and me, during his Absence : And as my Circumspection to the Prince of S— had worked the Displeasure of  
the



the Court on my Husband, I begged of him to forgive me for not having used other Expedients. I am very well contented with my Misfortune, was my Husband's Answer; proceed to offend me by your Virtue, and you shall have my Thanks for it as long as I live. I foresaw it, that the Court would prove dangerous to you; and I imagin'd, that at your first Appearance there you would be admired, and not be able to withstand the Vollies of Praises and Flatteries which are discharged upon new Comers among that Polite Company: But after all, I look upon my Disgrace as a Proof that I am possessed of a loving virtuous Wife.

In the mean time we lived at our Country Seat as happy as ever, had not the Loss of our deceased Father frequently invaded the Repose of our Mind: To supply therefore the Want of him in some Measure, my Husband prevailed upon Sir R— to live with us. He was still a young Man, but served in large Companies for nothing else than to fill up a vacant Chair; for he was like dum and speechless when he found himself among a Number of People; whereas in a Conversation of three or four Persons he was the most agreeable Companion. His Knowledge which he had gathered from reading the best of Authors, was extraordinary, and his Civility of as high Degree as his Friend-

Friendship; and notwithstanding his dull Looks, he was of a composed and serene Mind: He was not a Man who refused to join with others in taking lawful Diversions; but to me it seemed that he had more Satisfaction in seeing others receive Pleasure from such Diversions, than he had in the Diversions themselves. His Wishes were, to see all men judicious, and all judicious Men happy: Hence it was that he took no Fancy to large Companies, because he observ'd among them much affected Civility, as well as too much Diffimulating, and too much guarding oneself in speaking with Freedom. In all his Dealings he did not discover the least Inclination to Self-interest, and as to arriving to Honours and Fortune, he shewed almost a too great Indifference. He hated Flatterers and Sycophants worse than his open Enemies; for he was of Opinion, that they were more hurtful to open Faith and Honesty than all the Heretics and Freethinkers are to true Religion. It was a Pleasure to him to help a Person of indifferent Circumstances, rather than to oblige one who was accounted to be a Man of Wealth; and when he was asked, why he would act so contrary to the common Method? his Answer was, I fear the rich Man will be ready to reward me for obliging him, and by accumulated Returns make me a Slave to his

his Humour, and a Defender of his ill-grounded Arguments and Assertions. He had a Footman who in Honesty and good Manners excelled the Generality of his Degree. One time, in our Presence, he asked his Master, whether he had any further Commands for him? to which Sir R— replied, You Simpleton, do you think that you have no other Business in the World than to wait upon me, and to follow my Directions? or do you imagine that you are to die as ignorant as you were born? If you have nothing to do, sit down and contemplate what it is to be a Man: This will be sufficient to employ all your Thoughts. To assist him in which, Sir R— gave him proper Books to read; and when he was undressing his Master, he obliged his Servant to give him an Account how he had spent the Day, and what he had read. He who is ashamed, said Sir R—, to convey true Knowledge and Virtue to any one because he is of a mean Station, such a one does not deserve to live. This is the true Character of Sir R—; and as he was a Man of great Integrity, my Husband had a fraternal Love for him; and we never concluded upon any thing of Consequence without first consulting him.

About this Time my Husband received a marching Order, because Sweden was engaging in a War with the Crown of Poland:  
And



And here I may date the Commencement of the disastrous Revolutions of my Life: He was detached to take a strong Pass well guarded by the Enemy; but because he had not sufficient Forces to sustain the Attack, he miscarried, and lost not only the greatest Part of his Men, but was also wounded himself; so that it was thought that the Prince of S— who commanded in chief, had fixed upon him to go upon that dangerous Enterprize with a View to destroy him. In short, my Husband was brought before a Court Marshal, where he was accused of Couardise, and sentenced to be beheaded. Good God! how shocking was it to me when I received a Letter from him, which contained the following Lines:

*F*arewel, my Dear; for ever farewell! It is the Will of Fate that I shall die; and tho' this does not befall me without a previous Apprehension, yet would the manner of my Death be frightful to me, were I to set a greater Value upon worldly Honours than that of a good Conscience. I am adjudged to die by the sword, because I have not used it with more Courage in Defence of my native Country; tho' God knows that I am innocent, and the five Wounds I have received in that Engagement can witness how I have acquitted myself in my Duty. But it is the Prince of S— who thinks himself

*Swedish Countess of G<sup>n</sup>. 25*

himself offended by your virtuous Repulse of him, who is doubtless the Contriver and Cause of my immature Death. Forgive him, that he thus tears your Husband from you; which however gives me less Concern than if he had made a more disgraceful Conquest of your Virtue. Farewel, my Dearest, and pray, that at my last Moments I may be as resolute as I am at present. My Wounds are very dangerous:—Would to God they would prove mortal, that so I may not be exposed like a Criminal.

Within five Days from the Date hereof I shall be no more—Acquaint my honest Friend Sir R— my last Wishes to him, I know he will not forsake you in your Misfortune. I have petitioned the King to leave you in full Possession of my Estate; but I doubt whether he will grant me that Favour. Be of good Cheer, my Dear—Retire whither you please, so that you but escape the Persecution of the Prince. Farewel! Oh, that the fifth Day was come! Why must I fall a Victim to my Enemies! But who can withstand Fate?—I will meet Death with Intrepidity. Once more, my Dearest, Farewel—This Moment I find myself very much out of order—Perhaps I shall die To-day of my Wounds. The Chaplain of my Regiment comes to visit me—I will intreat him to take care that this Letter may come safe to your Hands. Take Courage—I shall ever love you, and am sure to meet you in the World to come.

It is impossible for me to declare my Distraction and Confusion, after reading this Letter; for we are never in more want of Words, than when we endeavour to express the Sufferings which interrupt the sincere and passionate Dictates of our Hearts. I can only say that for several Days together I was like a Person thunder-struck. All the Arguments of Religion and Reason were insufficient to afford me Comfort; but rather increased my Affliction, because they had no Effect upon me. The Day on which my Husband was to suffer Death, was come, and I spent it in Tears and Prayers; and in that distressful Juncture I more than once felt the cold Stroke of the Instrument which was to take away my dearest Husband's Life. None did I perceive about me more assiduous to assist me in my Calamity, than SirR— that friendly Comforter: He moaned and lamented my Misfortune in a most compassionate Manner; and his deep Sorrow and Concern for me, at last, prevailed with me to hearken to his Consolations, which were more nervous than to be slighted, even in Despair.

Before a Week was pass'd, my Husband's Postilion brought me Word that his Master had died of his Wounds three Days before the Time appointed for his Execution. This Account, tho' very melancholy, nevertheless



less afforded infinite Satisfaction to me. Then he died of his Wounds like an Hero! was my first Exclamation: Then he did not behold the shocking Preparations which preceded a forcible and untimely Death, and are even worse than Death itself; was my next Observation. I asked, whether he had been decently buried? He answered, That this by no means could be done; because that very Night the Enemies took Possession of the Village where a Batalion guarded my Husband, and forc'd them to quit their Posts very precipitately. In this Confusion, the Postilion himself, as he informed me, narrowly escaped being taken; but that the Chaplain of my Husband's Regiment had afterwards found means to dispatch him back to me with this Relation, and some of my Husband's Jewels.

The Chaplain himself had written to me, and in the Name of my Husband advised me to leave Sweden with all the Speed I could, to escape the Vengeance of the Prince, and to be out of the Reach of his importunate Solicitations. The Order for seizing upon our Estate and Effects, as I was inform'd, had been signed even before my Husband's Death. I therefore resolved at once to retire, and intreated Sir R—to accompany me. At home we gave out, that we intended to make a Journey to one of our Estates which

was at some Distance from our Residence; and to give the less room for Suspicion, we took nothing with us but a Hand Trunk, in which were about 1000 Ducats, besides some small golden Utenfils and Jewels; for our ready Cash my Husband had advanced for the Service of the Crown. All our Silver Plate and every thing else we left behind us, and, attended by the said Postilion, and Sir R—'s Servant, we hastened to quit Sweden; and scarce had we passed the Boundaries of that Kingdom, before we were informed, that my Husband's Properties had been seized upon, and that I had been traced several Miles.

We were now in Livonia, but I could not count myself safe there: The Prince was resolved to have me in his Power: My Uncle who had conducted me to Sweden, was dead; and I did not know what Country to chuse for my Residence. All the Recourse I had, was to my trusty Guide and Assistant Sir R— who advised me to go to Holland, because he had Friends at Amsterdam; and he assured me I would like the Country. Here, said he, you may spend a Year or two, to see what Turn Affairs in Sweden will take: Who knows but by Intercession and Petitioning you may have the good Luck in time to be restored to some of your Husband's Lands and Chattels?

Indee

Indeed, the Apprehensions of falling into a revengeful Prince's Hands, made me think more favourable of foreign Dominions, than of my native Country, and therefore consented without further Deliberation to go to Amsterdam; but I wished that my Husband's former Mistress might accompany me thither. We were about 18 Miles from her, thinking that she still lived on the Premises which my Husband had assigned to her in Livonia: Sir R— therefore set out for the Place, to inquire after her; but he was not gone long, before the Postilion came to tell me, that he had seen Carolina at Church, in the Village where I kept myself private, but that he had not spoken to her. I dispatched him therefore back again, and in a few Hours I had the Satisfaction to see her at my Lodging. It was now eight Years since I had seen her; and I observed she had lost some of her alluring Features, but not the least in her Agreeableness and Conversation. I then gave her a Detail of my unhappy Fate, and asked her, whether she would go to Amsterdam with me? She shed Abundance of Tears at my Misfortune, and about the Love which I still had for her. You treat me with too much Kindness, Madam, said she: You shew me the greatest Favours, tho' you might perhaps find Cause to hate me: I



count it a great Unhappiness, proceeded she; that I cannot attend you at present; because it is now a Year since I changed my Habitation, and ever since I have laboured under a great Sickness; and you may easily perceive by my Looks, that it is impossible for me to venture upon such a long Journey with you; in the mean time I promise, upon Oath, that nothing in the World shall keep me from coming after you, provided I have my Health again: And to convince you the more of the Sincerity of my Promise, I will give you my Son with you, if you do not think him troublesome to you. The Money which your Husband's Father allowed me for the Maintenance of myself and the Child, I have laid out in buying a small Farm in this Village, which I offer to you, not only for your Abode, but also to make it your Property: Would to God you could abide with me, undiscover'd, how happy would we live together! The Desire of serving you, would be a Means to restore my Health and Spirits.

I ventur'd to visit her at her little Farm; where I found nothing that made a Shew, either of Richness or Superfluity; but every thing appeared in excellent Order, and convenient, which sufficiently shewed the refined Taste and Genius of the Occupier. In her back Parlour, I saw a very large Collection

lection of fine Books, which she modestly told me, belonged to her Son, tho' I knew very well that they were for her own Use. They were almost all French and Swedish Authors which my Husband used to value, and I therefore could easily guess who had been the Collector of them, and to whom she was indebted for her Relish to reading. Under her Looking Glass hung the Portraiture of my Husband. As soon as she perceived my Eyes upon this dear Remembrancer, she took it down, and made me a Present of it; and at the same time told me, that it was her own Performance; for she was well skilled at Painting in Miniature. But I thought it too unreasonable to deprive her of a Piece, which she had taken the Pains to execute in the best Manner, and was designed to perpetuate the Memory of a Person who had been dear to her.

Her Son was almost thirteen Years of Age, and was an accomplish'd and lively Youth. He had been under the Tuition of an able Man, ever since his Mother's settling in Livonia; but had now been some Weeks at Home, on Account of her Sickness, which had been so desperate as to threaten her Life. Among several other Things which she told me in this Conversation, she confessed that she had had also a Daughter by my Husband, of whom she had

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had been brought to Bed in Holland, and that she left the Child with her Brother, partly at his own Request, and partly for private Reasons: But the said Child died in its sixth Year, as she had been informed by a Letter from her Brother: I could wish, concluded she, that you would chuse his House for your Abode, for he lived in a very pleasant Situation at the Hague, when I was there: But I do not know his present Circumstances, because I have not heard from him a long while, at least not since he became a Bankrupt; and therefore am not sure whether he has retrieved his Fortune, or no.

Whilst we were passing our Time in this Manner, Sir R— returned from his Journey, which he had made in vain; and it was high Time for us to quit a Place, where we could no longer live in Secrecy: But before we were well prepared to set out for Holland, Sir R—'s Servant happened to die suddenly of a malignant Fever. This honest Man, finding his Dissolution drawing nigh, in taking Farewel of his Master, presented him with 100 Ducats. This Money, said the faithful dying Man, I have saved in your Service, my ever-honoured Master, and by your Liberality; and I am glad that I can return it to you again: For it is owing to your Generosity, to your Instructions, and



and to your good Example, that I can die with Pleasure and in Tranquility ; and my only Wish is, that you may have another Servant, in whom you can confide. This shews, that even Men of the meanest Station may be cultivated to excellent Advantage, provided we do not regard them as Servants and Slaves only, but as Fellow-Creatures who are committed to our Care, and are born to the same general Purposes with us. Having taken her Son under our Care, we left Carolina, who promised to follow us as soon as possible, after she should have sold her little Farm. In the meantime we arrived safe in Amsterdam, where Sir R— was informed that his Uncle was dead ; but that his Daughter was still living and well settled. As soon as she saw Sir R— she knew him again, for (as I have mentioned above) he had been in Holland before, at which Time she had seen him. She received us very kindly, and her Husband, who was a judicious and obliging Man, entertained us in the most handsome Manner. I discovered myself to them, and desired that they would not only conceal my being a Person of Quality, to others, but that also themselves would not take Notice of it, and consider me no more as a Countess, but as their unfortunate Friend. They had already heard of my Husband's

Fatality

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Fatality in the Public Papers; and I found, that tho' I should have had no Qualifications to attract the Affection and Esteem of these People, yet my Misfortune was enough to recommend me to them: I even learned, that a great Disaster has almost the same Operation with some People, as high Fortune has with others. We are counted great, because we have suffered and lost very considerably; and our Misfortune is looked upon as meritorious as our Exaltation, which we often ascribe to our Perfections, tho' we have contributed very little, if any thing, to our own Success. In short these good People treated me with as much Respect and Civility, as if I had been their near Relation. They offered me a Part of their House for my Use, but I contented myself with two Chambers: And lest I should become chargeable as well as troublesome to them, I declared my Intention to Sir R—, that I was willing to turn my Jewels into Cash, and put it into the Hands of his Cousin to trade with. He approved of my Resolution, and at the same time told me, that for his Part, he had done that already with the Money which his deceased Servant had bequeathed to him. Accordingly my Landlord sold my Jewels for 12000 Crowns, and advised me to put them into his trading Stock; where I should have

have a full Dividend of the Produce which should arise, in proportion to my Capital. I desired of him, not to give himself the Trouble of keeping an Account with me; but that I should be glad if he would accept of the Interest of that Money, towards the Charge of keeping me, and my two travelling Companions.

My fluttering Spirits began now to compose themselves again; for here I lived in Security and great Satisfaction. Sir R—too began to be more cheerful, and pleased himself with the Thoughts of having brought me to a Place which afforded me that Contentment: And because he had not wherewithal to employ himself, he took Carolina's Son under his Inspection, and bestowed as much Care on him as was possible, for a Man who takes Delight in communicating and conveying Knowledge and good Principles to his Inferiors. Such noble Views would certainly raise Jealousy in great Men, to many whom they look upon much below them, and are not taken Notice of, did they know the Reward which the latter acquire for their laudable and noble Actions, by having their Memory honoured and preserved, as well by those who are Witnesses to their Actions, as by such as have profited by them: For Sir R— instructed our young Man, not only in different



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rent Languages, but also in Arts and Sciences; and particularly in the important Points of Religion and Morality; and in Matters where he was not explicit, his Conduct and good Manners were sufficient for our Youth to take Example by. Thus the Scholar became of a similar Behaviour with the Master; and rewarded his Trouble by early improving in Wisdom and Goodness. As for my Part, I spent my Time mostly in Studying, if a Woman may be permitted to say so of herself, without Vanity. I commonly bestowed one Hour in the Day upon our young Scholar, and endeavoured to perfect him in such Departments, as young Men are more apt to learn from our Sex, than Preceptors of their own. I tried to moderate his fiery and violent Temper of Youth, by my Seriousness and Gravity; I took Care to keep him always at a Distance; and acted in several Characters to him, that he might not become too familiar, but always discover something new in my Conversation with him. Besides employing myself thus with our young Spark, I passed many an Hour with my Landlady's Daughter, who was a Girl about eight Years of Age. I taught her to speak French; and without taking any extraordinary Pains with her, I brought her up to Drawing, Embroidery, and Singing: In brief, I enjoyed

joyed a very happy and tranquil Life : My Landlord and his Wife chose to be governed by my Taste of Oeconomy, and they took particular Notice of what was pleasing to me, that they might entertain me accordingly : They never introduced me into large Companies ; nor interrupted me in my Retirements, unless I invited them to a Conversation with me : I had no Occasion either to command, or to make my Request in gratifying myself ; but only to pronounce my Choice : I was held for a Relation of my Landlady's by her Domesticks ; and such as did not belong to the Family knew nothing to the contrary. In this my disguised Way of Life, I had the Advantage not to be obliged in Company to dispute and maintain Precedency, on Account of that glittering but very troublesome Character of being a Person of Quality. Had I been known to be a Countess, People would not have admired me, but regarded my good Qualities as so many necessary Properties belonging to my Station ; at the most, I must have contented myself with their honouring me only, whereas now I was both honoured and beloved, and every one was fond to converse with me.

I had now lived four Years in Amsterdam, and in that Time sent several Letters

to Carolina, to put her in Mind of her Promise to come to me ; but all to no purpose. However, her Absence was of no Prejudice to her Son, for whose Education all possible Care had been taken ; but judging him fit by this Time to put himself in some settled way of Life, several Means were proposed ; but none was more acceptable to him than that of Soldiery. Sir R— approved of his Choice, and told him, That he would be of great Service in that Station, since well-behaving and civilized Persons are no where more wanting, than among uncivilized ones: Betake yourself to the Army, Sir, said Sir R— to him, and let them see, that a Man can be intrepid, valiant, and of strict Morality, and yet prudent, cautious, and humane withal. As long as Religion and a good Conscience attends you, so long will you look upon Death with Indifference ; and be prepared for him, without endeavouring to shun him thro' Timorousness. This is true Heroism. Accordingly we bought him an Ensign's Place, and he went to his Regiment which afterwards was canton'd on the Frontiers of Holland.

I come now to one of the most singular Occurrences of my Life, for which I do not expect to be applauded by Person who aim at Greatness, and make no Distinction between Inclination and Passions, and between high



high Birth and Rank, but imagine that their consequent Operations proceed from one and the same Motive. To explain myself here, I must tell my Readers, That I was still in the prime of my Years, and my graceful Looks had not forsaken me; or, if I had lost any, they were only comparable to those soft and fine Lines in a Picture which indeed vanish, but do not lessen the Value of the main Work, because they are not missed: And this, I judge, was the Reason, that several Dutch Gentlemen of great Wealth and Figure made their Addresses to me on honourable Terms; but all their Assiduities were in vain. And who could blame me, that I who had had such a dear and indulgent Husband, should be critical in parting with my Love to a Stranger? But tho' none of my Suitors prevailed in their Overtures, yet their Caresses had that Effect upon me, to revive the secret Remembrance of Love in me. I will, said I to myself in a Hurry, chuse a Man myself for a Husband, rather than be longer plagued by these Dutchmen. This, indeed, seems a far-fetch'd Reason for my Resolution to marry again; but at that Time I thought it a very plausible one: I also considered, that I had mourned as much as a Woman can for the Loss of a dear and loving Husband; but that all my Grief would not bring him back.

to my Embraces; and that if I should not cease lamenting him, I might give way to a melancholy Habit, which might destroy my Life, without adding to the Honour of his Memory. Such was my Soliloquy, and such were the Arguments which my Heart prompted me to support as a Plea for my second Marriage.

One Afternoon it happened that Sir R— came into my Room, to inform me of an Affair which I had desired him to enquire into: Having made his Report, he sat some Moments silent, and then on a sudden broke out with, Well, Madam, have you concluded upon marrying again? Why, Sir, answered I, Would you advise me to marry again? Yes, replied he; but not before I see that your own Heart has advised you to it. You know my Uprightness, Madam, and you know also, that I comprehend nothing under the Title of Happiness, but what one either wishes for, or chuses voluntarily. Among the several Men which lay Siege to your Heart, none pleases me better than the Heer vander H—; not because he is a Man of Learning, but on account of his engaging Qualities and Evenness of Temper; yet I would not have you depend on my Judgment: I regard him in the same Light as I believe you do, and love him as a Friend and useful Member in Conversation, and as  
such

such you may delight in his Company too, yet not approve of him for your Husband. Our Heart often is of such a Nature, that it withdraws our Love and Affection for a Person, at the very Instant when we propose to become most intimate with him. Perhaps among these Gentlemen some one may seem to you more deserving of your Love than another; and his peculiar Talent get the Ascendant over you, to quicken your Thoughts of quitting your lonesome Widowhood; and yet admit the former, as an Acquaintance, into your Company.

I returned Sir R — my Compliment for having delivered himself in this open Manner, and assured him, that I would take his Advice in an Affair of such Importance, whenever I should find that I was advised by my own Heart to change my Condition. Bur pray, Sir R —, continued I, how happens it that you have hitherto delighted in a single Life, and shewn no Inclination to marry? O! Madam, replied he, I should certainly have resolved upon Marriage before now, had my Circumstances and Passion of Love prompted me thereto: Love, and Philosophical Amusements, are no Adversaries with me: A conjugal Life, if attended with true Contentment, is without Doubt the only State Man can chuse for his Happiness. Shew me but a Person, Madam,



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whom I can like, and who assures you of her Wishes to be contracted to me ; you shall soon find me ready in preferring a social Life to a solitary one : It is every one's Duty to make his Life as easy and comfortable as he can ; and since it is manifest, that this may be obtained by Love, we are the more indebted for it to Love and Marriage. But give me Leave, Sir, interposed I, to observe, that you have seem'd to be very indifferent to our Sex as long as I have known you ; how come you to speak so much in Praise of Love now ? I beseech you, Madam, replied he, not to make a Mixture of Modesty and Indifferency. I know that Love is often as productive of Curiosity to a third Person as Enmity is ; and it is for this Reason that I behave always very cautiously, but not with Indifferency, to the fair Sex. I know a Lady, said I at last, that loves you, and I do not believe that you will dislike her ; yet I am not assured whether you will chuse to admit her into the Capacity of becoming the ultimate Object of your Love : At which he seem'd to be surprized, and asked me ten times over who the Person was ? but I kept him in Suspense. At last I promis'd him, that I would procure him the Sight of her before Night ; and then he withdrew to his own Apartment. Accordingly, within three Hours after, I sent him my Portraiture, together

gether with a Billet of the following Contents ;

“Such was the Likeness of the Person who loves you, when she yet was young. At first she thought herself obliged to you by Friendship and Acknowledgment ; but Time and your Worth have changed these Motives into real Love—The most unfeigned Friend to my Husband has the Preference to my Heart. — You have dealt with me so generously, and with such Probity, as demands of me to love you. Let me have an Answer to this in Writing ; and make no Objection on account of your Station, since your Merits are above that ; for what is Inequality of Condition to People of Sense ? and as to the vulgar, who cares for them ? ”

Scarce had Sir R — received my Parcel, and inspected the Contents thereof, but he returned to me, with Looks of Ecstasy ; and this very Man who indeed all along (as well in my Husband's Time, as after his Decease) had behaved to me with great Civility, without once attempting to flatter me, now discovered his Tenderness for me in such a soft and feeling manner, that I must have commenced to love him, though I should never have loved him before. Now, said he, you have given me a Right to shew the in-  
most

most of my Heart to you ; and now you have granted me the Liberty to confess to you, without Offence, what Respect and Reverence bid me conceal within myself. Heaven is my Witness that I never expected to arrive to that Happiness which you now have offered me ; and though I should have entertained such Thoughts, yet that little Value I put upon myself would have quashed all my Hopes of Success—Nothing is now more wanting to complete my Contentment, but your convincing me, that you think me not unworthy of you ; and then I shall proclaim myself the most happy Man living. In short, we both stept down to our Landlady, and acquainted her with what we had agreed upon ; who, as well as her Husband, were extremely rejoiced at this unexpected News.

By this Time our Money had been six Years in Trade, and had brought in more than the Principal was in the Beginning ; upon all which together, we two might have lived very contentedly : But our generous Landlord would not consent that we should leave him. He kept our Money, and treated us, as before, with all the Civility imaginable. Thus Sir R— was now become my Consort ; or (not to speak in Quality Terms) my dear Husband, whom I loved as tenderly, and with as much Sincerity, as I had  
had



had done the former. In Faculties of Mind he was equal, if not superior to my first Husband; but in personal Appearance he fell short of him. He was a well-shaped Man indeed, but he had nothing of that taking Air which often meets with Advantage, if well display'd at first — No — it was requisite to have seen and conversed with him more than once or twice, before one could find out his Worthiness. I shall therefore not maintain that he would have suited every Woman's Fancy; it was enough that he pleased me; and in conversing with him, I found every Day fresh Reasons to love him. He was near forty Years of Age, and ever since I had known him, he had nothing altered in his Person. His regular and retired Way of living preserved him as well in Health as in Vigour. Who was more happy than we! We enjoyed ourselves by ourselves; and because we made no Boast of our Felicity, we enjoyed it without being envied by our Neighbours. — We lived without either commanding or obeying — We had no body to account to for our Commerce but to ourselves — We had more than we aimed for, and therefore were in a Condition to be beneficent to others — We lived in a Family who suited themselves to our Inclinations; and we resided in the most populous City, as retired as if we had been in a lonesome Country

Country Village ; which was indeed what gave us both great Satisfaction— We passed our Time in that improving and useful Exercise of Reading and Contemplating— We studied, without a View of being admired for it by others ; for we studied at our own Option. And, to sum up all, Matrimony guarded us against all that might disturb our Repose, and perfected us in the Art of pleasing each other. We frequently find People who would maintain that the Pleasures of a matrimonial Life are attended with less Ardour than that which results from casual Amours ; because, as they observe, the Love of the former often dwindles away, instead of increasing : But such People know not what Wonders Sagacity and Caution are able to do in a social Life ; for they support and promote Love, as the Heart by its Motion causes the Circulation of the Blood. 'Tis true, that immutable and constant Tenderness is such a Blessing as cannot be expected always to subsist in People who live in Wedlock ; nevertheless if Love has taken Root on both Sides, it will abide vivid even to our latest Years : Our Passions indeed, and Faculties of Body and Mind, must yield to advancing Age ; yet the Relaxation of Love comes on latest ; and he has his full Share of Satisfaction, who enjoys as much as satisfies his Appetite. In short, we loved each other

other, after a Course of Years, as closely as if it had been but the Beginning of our Love: For I would not have my Readers think, that we employed ourselves in nothing else but in enobling our Mind, because we studied the Sciences—No indeed; I have only been exposing that metaphorical Bombast, which I have read, and which only tends to make us Tools to the favourite Passions of our Souls; for I am of Opinion, that the corporeal Substance is as essential as the Soul, to constitute perfect Felicity; and whosoever persuades us that he loves the Perfection of a Person's Mind only, he either speaks against his own Conscience, or else he does not know what he asserts. Such Love as makes cherishing the Body its only Subject, betrays a superficial and degenerate Soul; and such Love again which idolizes the Faculties of the Soul, to the Neglect of bodily Satisfaction, favours the superstitious Notions of hyperbolical Scholastics, who would fain be thought of a spiritual Essence intirely; and are ashamed of their corporeal Substance, though (could they have their Wishes) they would part with ten Souls, rather than be deprived of the vital Parts of their Body.

I come again to the Thread of my History, and once more say, That my Husband and I lived as happy as ever it was possible



possible for a married Couple to live. We acquainted Carlson (this was the Name of Carolina's Son, the Ensign) with our Marriage, and desired him to visit us as soon as it would suit him; for it was almost the Period of four Years since we had seen him. He sent us an Answer to our Letter, and told us, That he was advanced to a Lieutenancy; and that Fortune had smiled upon him all the while he had been from us; but more so at present; because he had very lately been married to a Woman, who upon his account had escaped out of a Nunnery. — That indeed he could not come at her Descent, by reason that she had been in a Cloister, ever since the sixth Year of her Age; and that she herself did not know her Parents, but had gone by the Name of Mariane, without any Family Appellation; yet that, notwithstanding she should be of the meanest Extraction, she was such a deserving Person, that he could wish, upon her account, to arrive to an exalted Station, that she might share with him in the Honours: For Carlson had no further Knowledge of his own Birth, than that he was the Son of my first Husband's Steward, who had died before he was able to remember. He intreated us withal in the most pressing manner, that we would take a Turn to the Hague, in the Vicinity of which Place he was quartered.

tered. But this specious Account, instead of being welcome to us, gave us some Uneasiness; for though we did not doubt, that this Marriage was attended with sufficient Love, yet were we concerned, lest they should have been too precipitate in their Amours. In the mean time we sent him some hundred Ducats, to equip himself suitable to his Rank, and promised to see him, as soon as the Season and my Condition would permit me; for I had been brought to Bed of a Daughter. Accordingly in the Spring we went to the Hague, and not above three Miles from thence we found Carlson and his Spouse, both behaving so as gave us sufficient Reason to be confident that they were deserving of each other. Mariane was a Woman of extraordinary Beauty, and fair Complexion, with a full Eye inclining to a cerulian Cast, and such languishing Looks, as she seemed industriously to conceal from Strangers, lest her Countenance should betray the extreme Tenderness of her Heart: And admitting that the other Parts of her Visage had not been of a most perfect Order and Proportion, yet her Eyes alone would have commanded her Admission among Beauties of the first Class. Of her natural Genius I shall not say much, for she had been educated in a Nunnery; nevertheless the Innocence and Uprightness of her Heart

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would

would have made ample Amends for a less Degree of sparkling Wit than she was really Mistress of : A Timorousness which she had attracted in the Monastery, had not yet left her, tho' even that timorous Carriage was so suitable to her Innocence, that it was more becoming than blameable in her ; I will even go further, and say, that she was admired for her Timorousness ; as it happens in several Circumstances, that a Blemish sets in a stronger Light the Beauty of a well-executed Performance.

It is in vain for me to search for Words whereby to describe the Sweetness and Tenderness which she expressed to her Husband : He who would have an Idea hereof, must represent to himself a most engaging, brisk, and graceful Man, ( for such a one was Carlson ) ; and a Woman of a natural Tenderness, who from her Infancy had been immured in a Cloister, and where the Passion of Love had prevailed the more upon her, because she never had shewn a Liking to monastic Austerity, nor to the Rules and Orders of living in constant Sterility ; and then one may partly guess at the ardent and languishing Love of this young Woman, I was highly pleased with the Choice which Carlson had made, as was my Husband, and both of us took such a Delight in seeing this Pair enjoy themselves



themselves with the greatest Contentment, that we tarried longer with them than we should have otherwise done. We therefore sent to Amsterdam for Money, and we staid a whole Year, and longer, with Carlson; where we wanted nothing but the Company of his Mother, who some time before had informed us, that she was thoroughly recovered of her Illness; and who had lately in another Letter informed us, that she was preparing to come to us. We therefore dispatched the Postilion (who formerly had brought me an Account of my Husband's Death), to attend her in her Journey; but this Messenger met her upon the Road, and she was with us sooner than we expected her. She appeared to me as if she had grown younger; and the Joy which she had at her Son's Happiness, and my Satisfaction, made her every Day more brisk and lively: But (said this honest Woman) I am sure my Gladness cannot last long, because it is too great. In the mean time Mariane was brought to Bed of a Daughter; which caused fresh Rejoycings; yet the more Reason we had to be contented with this Mariane and with her Conduct, the more desirous were we to enquire with Certainty after her Pedigree; tho' after all our vain Searches, it remained a Secret to us. Mariane had left the Monastery privately,

vately, out of Love for her Husband, which made it necessary that we should be very cautious in our Inquiries, lest we should have discovered the Fact, to the Prejudice of her and her Husband. We employed therefore some Persons in which we could confide, to use their best Endeavours in getting some Intelligence of Mariane's Parents: But they all received for Answer, that they were unacquainted as to her Birth and Education, because she had been brought into the Monastery in the sixth Year of her Age, by a common Tradesman, who had deposited a certain Sum of Money for her Education, and had given out, that she was the Daughter of a broken Merchant, who would not have her brought up in the Protestant Principles: Perhaps, added they, he may have intrusted the Abbess at that time with the Particulars of his Errand; but that she now was dead. In short, we could get no Account of Mariane's Birth; and if we had applied to the Nuns themselves in the Monastery, perhaps they might have given us the same, or some less satisfactory Answer; considering how many Children are trusted into Monasteries, under wrong Names, and maintained by unknown Benefactors.

At last we resolved to return to Amsterdam, for our Circumstances required us to part; only Carolina accompanied us back  
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to the Hague, where she took Pains to find out Persons who might give her some Relation of her Brother Andreas: But she could be informed of no more than what she knew before; viz. That after his Wife's Decease he had failed, and was become a Bankrupt; but that he was gone on board an East-India Ship, to try whether he could retrieve his Fortune. We stay'd several Days at the Hague, and provided ourselves with Money for traveling Charges; but when we were upon the Point to set out, the Merchant who had paid us the Money, and whom Carolina had asked concerning her Brother, sent his Clerk to us, to acquaint us, that a Ship was lately arrived at Amsterdam, from the East Indies, on board of which Mr. Andreas was returned to Holland; and that he had been at the Merchant's House, not many Hours ago. This News was too important to proceed in our Journey, without having first an Interview with Mr. Andreas: But, would to God we had never seen him! The next Day he came to our Lodgings; and Carolina's first Question was, why he had been so neglectful not to send her a circumstantial Account of the Death of her Daughter, before he went to the East Indies? What! is Mariane dead? cried Mr. Andreas. What signifies your speaking of



Mariane to me? interrupted his Sister; I ask you after my Daughter Carolina: Where is she? Is she alive?—God send she may! I know it, Sister, answered Mr. Andreas, her Name was Carolina; but, that I might please my Wife, and because I had adopted her for my own Child, I changed her Name of Carolina, and called her after my Wife's, Mariane. I will tell you the whole Affair, if you will have but Patience to hear; and if you promise to forgive me in what you think I have done wrong to the Child. My dear Wife, you know, died about ten Years ago, and Mariane was then so very sick, that I had given her over; but she recovered: About the same time I had the Misfortune to fail in my Trade, and to become Bankrupt; wherefore I was obliged to think of recovering again my Fortune, and tried to get it by going to the East Indies. You know I am a Roman Catholic; and I assure you that I had a natural Love for your Daughter, or rather, my adopted Child: But, in order that Mariane might be brought up in my Religion, and at the same time not be exposed to Want, I put her privately into a Monastery, situated on the Frontiers of the Austrian Netherlands, having first agreed, and satisfied the Abbess for taking Care of the Child; and then I embarked for the East Indies

Indies. I intended yesterday to go to the Place to inquire how she does, but I was hindered by some Business which obliged me to be here To day. However, I will set out immediately; for I grow impatient, and want to know, whether she is living, or dead. Come along with me, said he to Carolina, it is but a short Journey, and in three Days we may be back again. Accordingly they took Coach, and departed, without any further Preparation. In the mean time my Husband and I had hardly Power to look at each other, and much less Courage to speak: A Shivering seized all my Limbs. At last my Husband broke out with, Good God, how will this turn out? Mariane in a Monastery—and not further off than the Frontiers? What sad Relations are these! O the poor, unhappy Carlson! Would to Heaven our Supposition may this time prove wrong—Was but Mr. Andreas returned again! or, were he never come back again to Europe—His Presence will certainly inform us of a most melancholy Secret, which otherwise never would have come to our Knowledge: Will not Carolina be obliged to tear the Wife of her Son from his Arms, to find her Daughter again? Such were the dreadful Apprehensions which tortured our Minds, till Mr. Andreas and his Sister were returned; and  
no

no sooner were they arrived, but we had the Misfortune to find by their Looks, that we were not mistaken in our Guesſes: Carolina was almoſt melted in Tears— She gave no Ear to Comfort; and her Brother, tho' a hardened Man elſe, and tho' he ſhewed no outward Signs of Sorrow, yet ſat like one Thunder-ſtruck; and neither he nor his Siſter would ſpeak to us for ſome time: At laſt we found, that they had been in the Monastery, where they had been told, That the Nun, Mariane by Name, had been taken into the Monastery in ſuch a Year (which agreed with Andreas's Time of putting her in), but that about a Year and a half ago ſhe had privately left that Community, and, according to Report, married a young Nobleman. What could we do in this Caſe? We were obliged to return to Carlſon's Quarters, inſtead of going to Amſterdam.

And now it appeared plain to us four, that the before deſcribed Nun could be no other than the Wife of Carlſon. However, as it is common with heavy and afflicted Hearts, to lay hold of Subterfuges and contrary Suppoſitions, whereby their fearful Apprehenſions often are aſſwaged; ſo did we in this Caſe: For tho' the Report which Carolina and her Brother had made of Mariane was ſufficient for us to conclude, that our  
Conjectures



Conjectures had some Foundation, yet we purposely avoided the sounding the Bottom of the Affair, and rather endeavoured to make the Truth thereof doubtful, that so we might not be deprived of Recourse to support as well ourselves as the Parties more closely concerned in this Perplexity. How! Should I not know my Child? my own begotten Child? began Carolina: Should it favour me in nothing? said she; tho' the poor Woman had not seen her Child ever since it was three Months old. My Husband also was not behind-hand in accounting for the Matter: A young Nobleman, quoth he — A young Nobleman? How could Carlson give himself out for a Nobleman? I should think he had too much Modesty to pretend to Titles to which has no Claim. You judge right, my Dear, interrupted I; for had he taken the Character of a Nobleman upon him, he would undoubtedly have joined his Station of an Officer to it: Perhaps some other Child has been taken into the Monastery in the same Year, whose Name has been Mariane. Mr. Andreas, again, who had not been in East-India to improve his Philosophy, was of Opinion, that Nature could not admit of these two to love each other so ardently as those who have no Bonds of Relation. Such were our Speculations whilst we were on the Road and

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and I believe there passed not a Minute between us, without arguing, and contradicting each other, till at last, between Hopes and Despair, we came in View of Carlson's Quarters again. We had agreed therefore, to behave very circumspectively in this Affair, and to acquaint neither him nor her with the true Motive for our Return: — We were to tell them, that the great Satisfaction which we had of Mr. Andreas's safe Arrival from abroad, had given us this Opportunity of visiting him again. 'Tis very true, said we jointly, if Carlson's Wife should prove to be the suspected Mariane, they would go distracted, were we to open this melancholy Scene to them at once — No, interposed I, this must not be done, lest it should occasion her Death. In case she should happen to be the true Maritne proceeded I, which Mr. Andreas once put into a Nunnery, then I will invite her to Amsterdam, to spend the rest of the Summer Season with me in that opulent City: I am sure her Husband will not be against giving her Liberty so to do: And, when once in Amsterdam, it will be time enough then to hint the Secret to her, till she herself finds out the unfortunate Circumstances brought on by her Marriage. Then, after she is convinced of her own unhappy Condition, that of Carlson's great Misfortune must

must be laid open to him; but he must never see his Wife again as long as he lives. This, I think, will be the best and only Comfort which we can afford him by way of commiserating his amorous Error; and this the rather, because he is well grounded in Religion, and gives way to Reason. As to the Daughter which this unhappy Marriage has produced, I will take Care to provide for somewhere in the Country, that she may not live with her Mother, to be the Witness of that tender, but now prohibited Love of her Parents, which had been instrumental to her Birth. These Considerations and Consultations brought us at last to Carlson's Quarters, who then happened to stand in his Door; and seeing us, came running with full Speed, seemingly amazed at our Return. We, again, shewed as serene Countenances as we were able in our Circumstances, and told him, pursuant to our first Agreement, that Mr. Andreas, Carolina's Brother, who was lately come ashore from the Indies, and whom they had met with at the Hague, had occasioned this second Visit. Who was more rejoiced than Carlson! He saluted us most politely, and conducted us to the Parlour where Mariane was. But scarce had Mr. Andreas entered the Room and seen Mariane, but he embraced her very eagerly, and cried out with



a loud Voice of Affright, Heaven have Mercy upon me ! 'Tis she ! 'Tis she ! O ! I unfortunate Man ! — I am the Occasion of all ! This, indeed, was the first Specimen of our Circumspection which we proposed to make use of in this Affair. Carolina run out of the Room distractedly — Mariane was striving to extricate herself from Andreas, who had closed his Arms about her Neck ; and as for me, I had no Power left to assist her in her Endeavours : Carlson stood as immoveable, and asked hundred times over, What was the Matter ? My Husband attempted to relate the Affair to him, but stopped at every Word, without being able to proceed. At last Mariane disengaged herself from Mr. Andreas, and came running to me, desiring that I would tell her the Meaning of this lamentable Uproar. I began to speak, without knowing what — I begged her Pardon — I assured her of my constant Friendship for her — I embraced her ; and this was all I was able to do. In the mean while Carlson came to take his Wife out of my Arms, at which I cried out, No : No ! Mariane is not your Wife ! Mariane is your Sister ; at hearing which, Mariane swooned away ; which gave a rowzing Turn to my Spirits, as if a fearful Dream had awaked me. However, my Husband and I were the first who came to themselves

selves again among us all ; upon which we laid Mariane upon a Bed, where she recovered from one Fit to fall into another ; and what contributed still more to these Faintings, was her Pregnancy, so that she did not come to herself all the rest of the Day.

In the mean time my Husband had been with Carolina, whom we had not seen since she run out of the Parlour. Were this History designed for a Romance, I might here easily have introduced a Scene of Carolina destroying herself either by a Dagger, or Poison, since she had been long enough by herself to perpetrate Suicide. But a theatrical Desperation, and a Rashness, which proceeds from an afflicted, but unadvised Mind, have not always the same Effect in common Life : This is certain, that my Husband had discovered Carolina in the Summer House, on her Knees, in a supplicating Posture. And here I shall not mention any more of what passed that Day, but proceed to the Occurrences of the next following.

By this time the Panic and violent Agitations of our distracted Minds were somewhat ceased, and Melancholy, attended with terrifying Consequences, had taken Place : The Sighs and Tears which yesterday had been detained by successive Surprizes,

prizes, flowed now with Ease, and we made bemoaning and compassionating each other our Comfort. Carlson came to the Bed of his Mariane, full of Anguish, Fear, Shame, Grief, and Sorrow, being restrained from embracing her in the usual Manner; and it was a most melancholy Sight to observe the Behaviour of these two Persons: For Religion commanded them to change their conjugal Love into that which reigns between Brother and Sister, tho' their Hearts perswaded them they were intitled to pursue the former; because they loved each other in the most passionate Manner: Add to this, that they lived still in the Spring of Wedlock, and were now obliged at once to break their close Alliance: They had never seen or known each other, before Carlson made Love to Mariane; and therefore had not Opportunity to persuade themselves, that they were obliged to damp their ardent Flame, and to content themselves with a Familiarity which is becoming among Relations: Nature itself declared in their Favour, and urged, that nothing could be objected to their Love, because they never had regarded themselves as Relations, and for that Reason could justly claim the Liberty of continuing a conjugal Life, without Interruption. Ah! dear Brother, (were Mariane's repeated Exclamations)



tions) leave me! — Leave me, unfortunate Husband! Begin to hate me — I am your Sister: But — No — my Heart does not tell me so — I am yours — yes, I am yours: Matrimony has joined us, — God will not separate us. Her Husband was of the same Opinion, and harkened to the Voice of passionate Love, that the Law of Religion might not prevail over him. He took peculiar Care not to call her his Sister, but at every Interval to pronounce her his Mariane: He was fluent in Expressions, but in Lamenting he rather exceeded Moderation: Yet as it was the Result of his own Heart, it had a most melting Effect upon every one who heard and beheld him. Sometimes, in the midst of deploring himself, he called Philosophy to his Aid, and used such Arguments as he was sure were in his Favour: He proved, that this Marriage was permitted according to Divine Institutions, tho' it was condemned by Civil Authority; yet all his Reasonings came to one and the same End, and served only as so many repeated Declarations, that he was lawfully contracted to Mariane; and that nothing but Death should separate them. He wished innumerable times Andreas had been dead, before he opened his Lips in the Discovery of this innocent Transaction: Andreas, again, sat mute, and astonish'd, like

one who expects to hear his Sentence of Death ; and I believe he would willingly have resigned some Years of his own natural Life, could that have been a Means to restore to this tender Couple their former Repose and Happiness. At last Carolina went to the Bed of Mariane, and bid Carlson to withdraw. My dearest Daughter ! began she, ah ! have I found you again, that I must disengage you from the Arms of your Brother ! Would to God I never had been obliged to perform this melancholy Office. Perhaps this is a Punishment for my ---- But — it is the Will of Fate ! Neither of you is guilty of a Crime ; — your Ignorance in this Affair justifies your Love, but the Certainty of your Relation now forbids it : I am the Mother to both of you, and as my Children I love you most sincerely ; but I shall be obliged to abhor you, in case you persist to prefer Matrimony to Consanguinity. This Speech of Carolina's, tho' indeed it was full of sound Reflexions, was still too rough for the panting Hearts of her two Children ; and too soon delivered to them ; for it raised new Despair in both of them : My Husband, however, found out a smother Expedient to pacify the Rage of their Distraction, by making use of such Terms as often have the same Effect on agitated Minds as demonstrated Truth,

Truth. He said it was a Case of Conscience, and that we were not the fit Persons to decide it. Let us leave it to the Determination of some able Divines, proceeded he; I believe this Marriage may still be allowed. This was a seasonable Remedy to assuage the Anguish of the two wounded Hearts, and at the same time to moderate the Excess of their Fondness. Accordingly they agreed to appeal to some University of Note, and to abide by the Opinion of its Members; not from any Persuasion of the Unlawfulness of their Proceeding, indeed, but in Hopes of a public Approbation of their Desires to pursue the Course of that new Engagement which they had entered into by their Marriage Vow. In the mean time we took Advantage of their Concurrence to our Proposals, and encouraged Mariane, to follow us to Amsterdam, as soon as her Condition would permit it; and comforted her with the Possibility of procuring a Dispensation from Rome, to remove all the Obstacles which should be formed by the different Opinions of Ecclesiastics. Her Husband, we told her, might try to get Furlough for half a Year, and then come to spend that Time with us. All which was very reviving, and acceptable to our young People. Thus several Days passed without our hearing them bemoan



and bewail each other; and Mariane recovered so well, that she thought herself able to venture with us. But while we were preparing for our Journey, Carlson was commanded to repair immediately to his Regiment, upon Pain of being cashiered, because strict Orders were given to march it directly to the Place of Rendezvous. This unexpected Piece of News had a different Operation: For it was welcome to Carlson; but to Mariane it caused a fresh sinking of Spirits; and scarce had she discovered his Compliance with the Order, but she reproved him in a most passionate Manner, and among other Terms of Reproach called him a Faithless one, who wished for an Opportunity to get rid of her. Is it imaginable, that a Woman could harbour such Thoughts of Jealousy, who knew that her Husband was her Brother?—But what is more capable of surmounting Impossibilities than Love, and Dreams? We saw, with Sorrow, that Mariane loved Carlson now as much as ever she had done; and that her Heart would admit of no Arguments which carried the least Tincture of parting with him, tho' Carlson assured her in the most solemn Manner, that he still infinitely loved her; but that his Readiness to march proceeded from some Thoughts which he had that Providence might have directed it thus, to cut  
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the Thread of their intricate Union. Perhaps, said he, I lose my Life in the Fields, then who is more happy than we? Would not Death be more tolerable to me than the Torment of beholding and of loving you? And would you not rather be forcibly torn from me, than endure the Pain of forsaking me by your own Consent? without ever leaving me at Liberty to separate myself from your Love? Have a good Heart, dear Mariane; If I return safe again, it will be an Indication that Heaven approves of our Marriage; and if I lose my Life, it will be a plain Conviction, that you are deprived of a Man who should be but your Brother, and not your Husband. What excellent Services doth not slight Reasoning produce in certain Circumstances? and how useful is it not often to have the Satisfaction of cheating ourselves? This is plain from Carlson's Indifference; which had so good an Effect that it calmed the Tempest not only of his own, but also of Mariane's Mind: They committed the Issue of their Concern to Heaven, and promised themselves from that dis-interested Tribunal nothing but Justice, by which however they meant such a Verdict as should be in their Favour. In short, they appealed to their own Reason, and defended the Lawfulness of their Marriage so earnestly, that it would have been difficult  
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for the ablest Civilians to convince them of the Illegality of their Proceedings. However, Carlson repaired to his Regiment; and parted so courageously as if he went to win his Mariane in an Engagement: And she again, behaved not less resolute, and seemed to leave him, upon this Occasion, that she might hereafter enjoy him without ever being interrupted in the Possession of him. As soon as he was gone, Mariane judging that Loansomness would occasion Melancholy, made no Objection to set out with us for Amsterdam, together with her Daughter and Mother: But Andreas, who had mended his Fortune in the East Indies, stay'd at the Hague to establish himself there again; in which he was assisted by his Sister, who gave him the greatest Part of the Money which she had saved in Germany, and whilst she had been the Count's Favorite: Thus we and our Company left the Hague, and arrived safe at Amsterdam, where we found our generous Landlord well and in his former good Circumstances; but because some of us were Strangers to him, we told him, that Mariane was Carlson's Wife, and Carolina his Mother.

We had lived now some Months together, in tolerable Tranquility, till we received an Account of Carlson's Death, with these Circumstances, That he had not died



in Battle indeed ; but that a violent Dis-  
temper which then prevailed in the Army,  
had proved fatal to him. This raised new  
Trouble in our Minds, because Carolina,  
my Husband, and I, were much grieved  
for the Loss of him ; yet when we reflect-  
ed upon his Marriage, we had Reason ra-  
ther to rejoice than to be sorrowful, con-  
sidering that nothing could have decided this  
desperate Affair more readily than Death :  
For the Opinion of a spiritual Court would  
certainly have gone against their Marriage ;  
and Mariane and her Husband would have  
either not submitted to a Separation, or else  
would have lived a most unhappy Life,  
should they have conformed to the Tenor  
of the Canon Law. Our chief Concern  
therefore was for Mariane ; for tho' she  
trusted to Heaven, yet, as I have already  
mentioned, it was with a View that the Re-  
sult would be in Favour of her Hopes ; and  
that it would turn out to their mutual Sa-  
tisfaction : We dreaded therefore to men-  
tion Carlson's Death to her ; for we ex-  
pected no less than that it would renew her  
Despair ; yet as it could not be avoided,  
we desired her to step into our Apartment,  
where my Husband had prepared himself  
to acquaint her with what had happened to  
her Carlson. Well, Mariane, addressing  
his Discourse to her, do you not guess what

I am going to tell you? I excuse your Surprise, since you cannot avoid being surprized. Here is a Letter that comes from the Camp. Say no more, Sir, interposed Mariane; I guess already the Contents of it:—My Husband is dead!—Unfortunate Woman! However, I am contented since not the World, but Heaven has taken him from me: Now I see it is not God's Will that we should have lived together. But—in what Manner did he die? Was he slain in Battle?

We were astonish'd at this unexpected Moderation; and we found that we had given ourselves needless Pains in collecting such Sentences as we thought would have served to comfort her in her melancholy Situation; though after all we doubted whether we might trust to Mariane's present Conduct; who mourned for her Husband in silent Tears, more than by raving Impatience and Despondence.

Some Weeks after, we received another Letter, whose Superscription was in Carlson's own Hand Writing. I can assure my Readers, that I was more astonish'd to see that he was still living, than I had been surprized when I heard that he was dead. Good God, did I say to myself, how will this turn out again? Carlson, may be, has left the Camp, on account of his Illness, or is perhaps

haps quite discharged; if so, then he will soon be with Mariane again. Such were my Fears; and my Husband and Carolina were no less agitated; Mariane alone was of different Sentiments, and could hardly contain herself for Joy. The Letter was directed to her; yet she did not open it directly—No—her pleasing Uneasiness would not give her Time to do it; neither would she give it to us to open it for her, but kept it in her Hands as a precious Parcel, which one would not open till one has satisfied oneself in guessing what might be the Value of its Contents. At last she broke the Seal, and by looking into the Letter, found it to be dated several Weeks before that which informed us of Carlson's Death. In short, it was an Epistle in which he took his Farewell of Mariane, in the following Manner.

*Dear Mariane,*

*'TIS above four Weeks that I have not been able to know my own State, much less to acquaint you with my Illness, till this Hour. How happy am I, to have been sick, and on the Brink of Death, without being sensible of either? What should not I have endured all that Time upon your Account, had I been Master of my Reason! Heaven be thanked for the Manner of my dying! I am quite wore away! quite feeble! And, since I am come to myself*



myself again, I look upon the Hours of my Life as so many Moments that God grants me to examine once more the World, and my Soul, and to turn my last Thoughts upon Futurity. Farewel then, dear Mariane! Farewel for ever! Bemoan me not as your Husband, but as your Brother. Ah! melancholy Name!— Conceal our Fate to our Daughter, if she lives to grow up; and, if you can, banish the Thoughts of it yourself. My Conscience dees not reproach me for having loved you, but it reprehends me for not having ceased to love you as my Wife, after the fatal Discovery that you are my Sister. Alas! how different are our Thoughts when Death presents himself, from those which we entertain in a healthy and prosperous Condition! What does not Reason conceive; and how much does it not conceive at the Time when our Passions are calm, and infeebled! Now I feel the Approach of Death; and I am dying in Comfort! But— not see you again?— Leave you, dearest Mariane? and I to die— What terrible Emotions rise in my Breast! Ah! I can write no farther.

So far did I come half an Hour ago — I enjoy again a Share of Tranquility — The Glimps of Life sparkles once more. Farewel, my Mariane! Salute my Mother, and my two generous Friends. My trusty Companion Dormund, whose Visits we frequently enjoyed, is at this Time with me, and will not leave  
me

me as long as my Life continues. If you should resolve to love again, then do not forget that your dying Husband recommends him before any one worthy to succeed him. He is to bring you my Watch, and your Portraiture : The rest of my Equipage I have given away among my poor Soldiers. I am upon the Point of dying — Farewel!

As soon as Mariane perceived that she had mistaken the Sense of the beginning Part of the Letter, and that it had been sent by Carlson to take his Farewel of her— she broke out into heavy Lamentations : But I shall purposely avoid describing her Discomfort, and the bad Consequences which it produced, as well to her as to us ; because they are attended with Circumstances in which we took Part, since we were, as I may say, intangled in her Difficulties : They were important, indeed, with regard to our own Feeling ; tho' it does not follow from hence, that they should be remarkable and moving to the Reader : I shall therefore pass over several Instances, which otherwise I would have mentioned.

We lived again in Tranquility ; and it seemed as if Heaven would force Riches upon us ; for our Stock brought in more than we desired ; and abundantly more than we had Occasion for ; and therefore

we did not even think of claiming the Money which my former Husband had advanced, and which was due to me from the Crown of Sweden: I was rather pleased to find that I had no Occasion to concern myself about that Country, which now was quite exhausted and weakened by a long unprofitable War. It was enough for me that I lived in private, and contentedly: I was the Wife of an agreeable and judicious Man; and I would have changed no more with the first Countess of the Empire than she would have changed Conditions with me: The Misfortunes which hitherto had occurred to us, we looked upon as Preparatives for enjoying the Sweetness of succeeding Rest. One may almost venture to say, That he who lives in constant Happiness, enjoys no Happiness at all. 'Tis true, indeed, Misfortunes are accompanied with nothing that is pleasing; yet in their Course and Connexion they incline to the latter; at least they may be compared to Medicines which occasion Pain to our Body, but are the more sanative upon that account.

In the midst of our Repose, which now had lasted above a Twelve-month, arrived Mr. Dormund, Carlson's Intimate, and delivered the Gold Watch, with the Portraiture in it, to Mariane, agreeable to the Notice



tice which she had in her Husband's Letter. Mariane, indeed, did know him, from being frequently with Carlson, but we had never seen him before; yet what need had he of any other Recommendation, since the very Name of being our Carlson's Friend was sufficient to make him welcome to us? He was a Dutchman by Birth, and a very agreeable Person; who had been a Staff Officer, but had now quitted the Service, and proposed to live upon his Means, tho' he was still but young. He had not studied; yet by the Help of some Books, and keeping good Company, had got a Turn of Wit which was very entertaining in the Beginning, but would not last throughout a Conversation. He understood several Languages, and talked the German better than any of the rest. Thus qualified, he sat down in Amsterdam; and it was an easy Matter for us to guess at his Drift: Mariane was his Object; and Mariane, in fact, deserved that any one should willingly quit both the Camp and Court upon her account. She was still exceeding handsome; and her Features had lost nothing by her adverse Fortune; but that had rather added greatly to the Beauties of her Mind; and by conversing with Women of Quality, she had attracted a Carriage which suited her extreamly well, and contributed ve-

ry much to her Beauty ; add to that, she was but between eighteen and nineteen Years old, and still in the Spring of her Age. Dormund therefore lost no Time nor Opportunity to ingratiate himself into her Company ; and she, perhaps, might condescend the more readily to give him Access, to shew that she honoured the Memory of her late Husband, by loving his Friend : To be short, he got the Ascendant of her Heart. One Time she came to me, seemingly, to import something of great Consequence, and made a long Preamble, which confirmed me in my Opinion that it would be Matter of Importance : At last when she was come to the Point, it was, Madam, would it not have been becoming in us to leave Mr. Dormund the Watch which he brought me from my Husband, that he might have something whereby he might remember his dear Friend Carlson ? I actually believe I should have done it, had it not been that my Picture is in it, which might perhaps be differently construed by some. I understood the Subject of her Harangue to a Word, and said, My good Mariane, why would you scruple to give your Picture to him who undoubtedly has already got Possession over your Heart ? I find you are willing to please Mr. Dormund, under a Pretence of Obligation,  
tho'

tho' 'tis Love which is at the Bottom of it. But, if you will leave it to my Management, I will soon make an End of this Affair: Give me but the Watch, that I may have it ready, at the first Opportunity to offer it to him; which I shall do without making much Ceremony about the Matter. Accordingly I performed my Part so dexterously, that soon after the Delivery of the Watch the mutual Surrender of their Hearts followed: For Mariane was contracted to Dormund, and they lived so happy together, that it seemed as if they were born on purpose to please each other. And tho' Mariane sometimes would be troublesome to her Husband, yet it proceeded from such Motives as hardly will offend a married Man. Her chief Fault was Jealousy, that hereditary Error of our Sex. I remember Mariane once came to me, full of Grief and Concern, crying, and behaving as if she had been under great Affliction; and therefore I expected to hear of some dire Misfortune that might have happened to her: But, what should it be at last? She cried and sighed at the Indifferency with which her Husband behaved to her; and was ready to charge him with Perfidy. I asked her, what Grounds she had to suspect him? and then came out this trifling Reason, *viz.* That her Husband just now had been  
I 3 writing



writing Letters; and that she came behind him, and had embraced him several times, in a most tender manner; yet that he had made no Return, nor taken notice of her, but had kept on writting, and had looked as if he did not care to see her. God knows, continued she, to whom the perfidious Wretch has written! I asked her whether she did not look upon the Letter, to find out what might be the Subject of them? No—not one Word, answered she, except that I observed one to begin with, Sir, Who would think that a Woman of her Sense should have thought this a sufficient Reason for Jealousy? But, what need I ask such Questions? How often does not Love exceed the Bounds of Reason? And when this wrong Step is taken, it avails nothing to boast of our good Sense and Capacity. Disputes and Divisions among married People frequently arise from trifling Matters; which at first are looked upon as insignificant; but in their Course they call our Imagination and Fancies to their Aid, and then form themselves into strong Reasons for Indifference and Jealousy.

Mariane had now lived about three Quarters of a Year in a State of Matrimony, when her Husband fell dangerously ill. For the Space of two whole Months he endured great Pains; and it was observed  
that

that some Uneasiness of Mind torment-  
ed him as much as his bodily Malady:  
He often begg'd of his Wife for God's  
sake to leave him; nor could he bear Ca-  
rolina in his Sight, and much less see  
Mariane's Child before him which she had  
had by Carlson. My Husband and I  
were the only Persons whom he desired to  
be constantly with him, and to comfort  
him. He wanted to be comforted, tho'  
we did not know what it was that mo-  
lest him; neither had we the Heart to  
ask him the Reason of his great Uneasi-  
ness. In the mean time it grew daily  
worse with him, and his Physicians told  
us, that his Case was so desperate, that  
they were of Opinion he could not live  
much longer. About Midnight he sent for  
my Husband and me to come to him im-  
mediately; at which time he seemed to  
us to be in his Agony: Nevertheless he  
had the Sense to order every one out of the  
Room, that none but we two might be  
with him; and then he began with broken  
Words to curse himself and his Love after  
a most execrable Manner. This astonish-  
ed us so much, that we could hardly per-  
suade ourselves to stay with him. He called  
himself the greatest Criminal that ever  
lived on Earth. I am, he cried, the Mur-  
derer of Carlson! With my own Hands  
have

have I conveyed Poison to him, and accelerated his Death, that I might become possessed of Mariane. Oh ! unfortunate Wretch ! What Justice, and what Judgment waits for me !—I am forlorn ! I see him—I see him ! Kill me ! did he call out again. My Husband, who had more Courage than I, spoke to him most earnestly that he would recollect himself from that Phantasy which troubled his Mind. No, no, cried he, it is more than certain : My Conscience has tormented me long enough : I am the Murderer of the best of my Friends ; I Barbarian — I Villain ! When Carlson had sent his Letter of Farewel to his Wife, he began to mend again ; but because I had formed to myself Hopes of his Death, and of Mariane, my cursed Hands prepared the Poison which took away his Life. What could we do in this Case ? My Husband made use of all the Means of Reason and Religion to assist this unfortunate Man ; but his Despair was so great, that it would hear of no Comfort. He desired to see Mariane once more, that he might disclose to her his Vileness himself ; but we begg'd of him for God's sake not to lay the Fact open to her, for that this could not ease his troubled Conscience ; but that by his Confession he would make himself guilty of a  
second



second Murther. Nevertheless, Mariane came into the Room before any body had called her ; upon which Dormund spoke to her, but she was so overwhelmed with Grief, that she could neither hear nor see. Then he took her by the Hand, and was preparing to repeat his execrable Confession, which I thought to hinder, by putting my Hand upon his Mouth, and by joining with my Husband in praying, and singing a suitable Hymn : But all our Endeavours proved in vain, and served only to give his Exclamations the greater Force : He was determined that Mariane should know what he had done ; and then he repeated his Relation about the Murder, with all its Circumstances. For a Proof whereof he referred to the Surgeon and to the Doctor of the Regiment, who at Carlson's Request had opened him after his Death, and had found the Poison which they imagined he had taken himself, tho' none could guess what could have prompted him to such a Desperation. Mariane having heard him, fell into raving Fits, and called him by the most aggravating Names which she could express, so that we were obliged at last to take her by Force out of the Room. Dormund, after this, composed himself for Rest, and slept two Days and two Nights without ceasing, and  
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we thought he never would have wakened again ; but he recovered ; and we went then to see him. 'Tis true, as a Murderer, we ought to have hated him ; yet universal Love to repentant Sinners obliged us to have Compassion for him. He was now more composed than he had been before, and he begged of us with abundance of Tears, to forgive him his vexatious Behaviour to us ; assuring us at the same time, in case he should survive, that he would not offend our Eyes with his Presence, but chuse some remote Place for his Abode, and the Exercise of Penitence for his horrid Crime. He intreated us not to permit Mariane to see him any more : However we had thought of this before, and sent her to our Apartment, instead of leaving her to stay among Scenes of Horror at home. We were now taken up with comforting Mariane, and did not see Dormund in two Days ; yet we sent often to his House, and were informed, that he mended apace : On the third Day my Husband went to him ; but Dormund was gone, and had left the following Letter for him :

*I Am going whither the Vengeance of Heaven shall permit me to go : Mariane shall never see me again. Good God, to what can-*  
not

not Love seduce one? The Shadow of my murdered Friend will follow me wherever I go; yet I rather will suffer all than aggravate the Matter with murdering myself. Curse the Memory of me as often as I rise in your Thoughts, for I deserve it; but let not the World know my enormous Guilt: I am sufficiently punished in losing Mariane and my generous Friends. I will again take to Arms; perhaps I shall the sooner lose my Life which is but a Torment to me. All my Effects I leave to Mariane; but may Heaven reward you for the Friendship which you have shewn me in my Sickness—to me who am a Monster, and who am not worthy of being pitied. Ah! unfortunate Mariane!

Dormund was now gone; neither have we ever heard what is become of him; and I wish that his Despair may not have driven him to Self-murder. Our Mariane, in the mean time, was often seized with dangerous Fits of Melancholy, and Necessity required that she should be bled in two Veins at once. As she had her Bed in my Chamber, I ask'd her several times how she did; and she assured me, that she perceiv'd herself much better, and expected to rest well that Night: But the Morning shew'd a different Scene; for scarce had I opened my Eyes, and turned them to  
her



her Bed, but I discovered Streams of Blood run from it. Then what could I imagine but that her Veins had opened again in the Night? As to Mariane herself, she lay in a dead-like Slumber, or rather Swooning. I cried out for Help, and immediately we closed and tied her Veins. What surpriz'd us most, was that we perceived the Bandages not to have dropt off, but to have been taken off on purpose. Against Evening Mariane came a little to herself, when she owned that she had opened the Bandages herself, from a Desire of dying; and wished heartily that her End would soon draw on. She then gave me a Kiss; and without speaking one Word more, swooned away, and died within few Hours after.

This unforeseen Accident effected me in like manner, as People who are dangerously wounded in an Engagement, feel not the Hurt till they are out of Danger. As soon as Mariane was dead, then my Misery began: I was ready to charge myself with being accessary to her Death, because I did not watch her more closely that Night: But what human Prudence can foresee all possible Consequences? I had, in fact, advised Mariane to marry Dormund, and I had the Misfortune to see that he was the Cause of her Self-murder: I reflected upon Mariane's Fate as to the next World; and

and I should have endured a thousand times more Uneasiness, had my Love for Mariane suffered me to pronounce her unhappy. Her Mother was far more resigned than myself, and I do not know by what Aid she was supported in her afflicting Condition, tho' I believe that it was by that of Religion. She looked upon every thing as a Destiny, whose Causes were impenetrable : In the next Place, she comforted herself in the Creator's Wisdom and Goodness ; and overcame her Misfortunes by Stedfastness. It is certain that the Aid of Religion produces wonderful Effects in Matters of Adversity ; for take from the Unfortunate the Hopes of a better World, and I do not find what can raise desponding Spirits.

Having gone through the above related Difficulties, we began now again to respire, and to taste the Sweet's of Tranquility : We returned to our Books to make Advantage of our leisure Time, and Love made our Life comfortable, and assisted us in breaking the Force of the melancholy Remembrance of our former Disasters, which otherwise would often have disturbed our Repose. About this Time my Husband compiled a Book, to which he gave the Title of *The Philosopher approved in Adversities*, and which had the Applause of several  
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learned Men, as an elaborate Piece of Writing; such, perhaps as the most eminent could not have finished with the same Spirit as he who treated that Subject from his own Experience. Not much above three Months after Mariane's Death, our Landlord departed this Life, his Wife being gone before him. This Loss of our generous Friend caused a great Alteration in our Circumstances; for we were obliged to take our Money into our own Hands, which, together with that of Dormund's Bequest to Mariane, was become very considerable; and which, in fact, was a great Burden to us; for neither my Husband, nor Carolina, nor I, knew the right Use of Money; and I believe we should rather have parted with one half of it, than be troubled with taking Care of the whole. Andreas Carolina's Brother (as I have mentioned above) was now again well settled at the Hague: And to make him an eminent Merchant once more, we voluntarily gave him some thousand Crowns, and then divided our Stock into two equal Parts; one whereof we offered Andreas to trade with; and the other Part we kept to serve ourselves, and to help worthy Friends. If Carefulness in managing Money is a Virtue without Exception, then I must confess that we were often neglectful in that Duty: It was sufficient for  
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us many times to give it away, if we did but know, that he who applied to us for it, was an honest Man, who had more Occasion for Money than we ourselves: One Word of an honest Man was with my Husband of the same Force of a Bond. We lost indeed by this means a great deal of our Substance, but we never were defrauded out of it. Our Debtors were all good Oeconomists, but they met with no Inducement to Parsimony from our Rigour: They endeavoured the more to pay us the Money which we had advanced to them, because they observed that we had done it without any narrow-spirited View; and by their honest Intentions they excited us to be liberal, tho' we should not have been naturally so determined. It is almost incredible what Satisfaction there is in serving honest and industrious People; and I believe there is more Resolution required in refusing one a seasonable Assistance, than in complying to relieve a Man of Honour, either by advancing to him, or giving him of our Substance.

At last, and for several Reasons, we left Amsterdam, and together with our Daughter, Carolina, and Carlson's Daughter, went to the Hague, to Mr. Andreas; these Persons properly belonged to our Family: But our deceased Landlord had committed

his Daughter to my sole Care, and therefore I might have included her in the Number of my Maiden Subjects. Her Portion was left in good Hands at Amsterdam, till she should come to Maturity. She was about fifteen Years old, and tho' not handsome, had excellent natural Qualities: She pleased, without being proud of having pleased; and her agreeable Behaviour supplied her Want of Beauty. There are many Gentlemen who rather chuse a genteel Woman without Beauty, than a beauteous one without an easy Carriage; and were I of the masculine Sex, I certainly would make one of the former. I may say without Ostentation, that I have had the greatest Share in bringing up this Child, whose Name was Florentina; and when I confess that she was of an extraordinary genteel Deportment, I would not be understood that she had it thro' my Instructions, but only that I procured Opportunities for her to improve herself in it: Her Familiarity with Carolina and my Husband had very much contributed towards her Politeness; and tho' she was grown up more in Company of Men than of her own Sex, yet I always was of Opinion, that this would prove of particular Advantage to her: For if it is true that Men become genteel and mannerly by conversing with us, it must follow

low that we turn wise and serious by associating with them: But I am far from meaning such Men who have only the Name of Gentlemen, and by empty Caresses endeavour to deify a young Girl; nor such as make every Look, and every Motion of their Lips or Hands serve to express their puerile and insipid Love: Such Men, forsooth, must not pretend to set up Academies for young Ladies, unless we would have them instructed in Stupidity. It would have been unpardonable in me in particular had I not brought up Florentina as well as my Ability would allow, considering the Time and Conveniency I had for it, exclusive of her fertile Genius, and my being almost constantly with her since she was seven Years old. Her good Qualities made her afterwards the Wife of a Man who enjoys one of the chief Posts in Holland, and whose honouring him with that Preference was the least Circumstance that made him great and happy. But I will speak of Florentina in another Place.

We had scarce been a Month at the Hague, when a Ship arrived from Russia, whose Cargo was chiefly assigned to Mr. Andreas; who on this Oecasion invited us to go on board, to see in what Goods the Lading consisted; and we accepted of his Proposal and went above a Mile by Sea



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to meet the Ship which was coming into  
Harbour.

I come now to a Period of my Life, whose Consequences surpass every thing that I have been relating hitherto. I must force myself in describing them; so much is my Heart against renewing the Representation of a Circumstance, which has been so dear to it. I know very well, that it is a particular Beauty in relating a Passage, to relate it in such a Manner, that the Reader believes he not only reads the Subject, but sees it executed; and so from becoming sensibly touched, he unawares supplies the Place of him who has been the chief Object in the Transaction; but I doubt whether I shall succeed in this, adequate to my Expectation. Accordingly we went, as I have said before, above a Mile by Sea to meet the Ship, on Board of which we observed ten or twelve Passengers who were Germans, and the rest Russians. All these went on Shore in our Presence, and congratulated Mr. Andreas on the safe Arrival of his Ship, because they had been told that it was freited for his Account. Mr. Andreas who loved to talk of Affairs at Sea, had entered into a long Discourse with them, which made it tedious to me, and therefore took an Opportunity to desire of my Husband that he would  
return

return home with me. Whilst I was still talking to him, one of the Passengers came running to me, and embraced me, crying out withal, Yes! O yes! 'tis You—I could not believe my Eyes, but now I am sure that you are my beloved Wife. He pressed me for some Minutes so close to his Breast, that I could not see who it was that treated me so tenderly. In the mean time I was surprized, and could not think but that I was attacked by one whom Love had distracted: But—O—Heaven! in whose Arms did I find myself at last? In those of the Count's — my first Husband's, whom I had counted dead ten Years ago, but was still living, and now by me, who dressed after the Russian Manner. It is impossible to tell how this confounded me; but so much do I remember, that I had not the Power to utter one Word; and my Count stood likewise mute, and burst into Tears. At last he discovered his former Friend my present Husband, whom he embraced, but I did not hear one Word spoken by either of them; or else I was so surprized, that I did not understand what they said, but ran to the Coach which waited for us, with all Speed, without regarding my two Husbands, who nevertheless followed me immediately. I embraced the Count innumerable times in  
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the Coach ; but in what Manner I expressed myself to him, I do not remember. By this time we were come to our Place of Abode, where I began to recover my Senses ; and my Count was infinitely glad to have found me again, especially at a Place where he had no Thoughts of seeing me. He repeated to me, I may say, a thousand times that I was still as aimable as I was at the Time when he left me ; and his Tenderneſs for me was the greater, as he had given me over for dead, because I had ſent him no Answer to his Letters ; and he believed that I had been informed of his being alive ; tho' in ſhort, he had known of my Affairs as little as I knew of his being alive. Mr. R— had withdrawn himſelf, without giving us the leaſt Notice thereof ; and therefore we were now by ourſelves. My Count told me now the hard Fate which he had met with ſince his Abſence, and which I ſhall relate by and by, deſiring me at the ſame time to tell him what Viciffitude of Fortune I had undergone. He asked me a hundred Queſtions before I could answer him one, and then it was with Tears and Embraces ; for Love and Shame had made me Speechleſs. One Husband I had found again, whom I loved moſt faithfully ; and another I ſhould quit who was no leſs dear to me.



me. There is a Necessity of feeling it, before one can know what it is to be affected by two Agitations at once, and of equal Importance. My Husband feared that my continual Sighs and Tears might indicate something disastrous to him, and therefore pressed me more instantly to unfold my Mind to him, and to let him know either his good or bad Fate : But he urged me in vain ; for what could I say to him, unless I should tell him that I was married ? and therefore I said nothing, but sighed, and thought that was saying enough. Are not you still my Wife ? began the Count : God forbid you should not : Rather be my Portion Death than a negative Answer. At that Instant my Daughter, a Child of five Years old, came into the Room where we were, which heightened my Surprize, because at the same time she discovered the Secret, at the Thoughts whereof I trembled. She saw that I cried, and standing before me, What is the Matter, Mamma, that you cry, ask'd she ? I come from Papa, and he cries too, and will not speak with me : I have done no Harm. Good God ! cried the Count, I find you are married ! Unfortunate Man ! Has it been my Destiny to find you again on purpose that my Heart should undergo every Manner of Torture ? Who is your Husband ?

Husband?—Tell me: My Presence shall not put you long in Pain—I will leave you directly. I do not charge you with Perfidy. You have thought me to be dead; and therefore do not load yourself with Reproaches: Nothing has caused my Misfortune but Fate: Perhaps this is a Punishment for having loved Carolina: Recover yourself and talk with me, continued he, (for I will hear it from nobody else but you) Who is your Husband? I got suddenly out of my Chair, and embraced him, but spoke not a Word yet. No, said he, treat me not with such Tenderneſs: My Heart indeed tells me that I am deſerving of it; but your preſent Husband alone can command your Love; and mine muſt give Way to Deſtiny and Virtue. By this Confefſion he only aggravated my Grief to a higher Pitch. At laſt he aſk'd the little Child where her Papa was, and why he did not come in? He came with you in the Coach, Sir, answered the Girl: He is in his Chamber, and is crying. Then I find my dear Friend is your Husband, interferred the Count: This makes my Miſfortune the more tolerable. He deſired then the Child to call her Papa; but he did not come; however he ſent by the ſame Meſſenger a Billet to the Count, written in French, and of the ſubſequent Purport: Dear

Dear Count,

**I** Pity you with the inmost Sense of my Soul ; for thro' most innocent Love I have offended you as highly as if I had been your Enemy : I have dsprived you of your Consort : Could you ever have expected this from me ! The Error, or rather the Certainty of your being dead, has favoured me with the Possession of her ; but your Presence now condemns the longer Duration of our Union, though cemented by due Forms of Law. You are too generous, and we too innocent, that you should punish us with your Resentment : Our Innocence, indeed, eases your Misfortune ; but does not remove it ; and the only Way to inflict a Punishment upon myself, is to fly. I leave you then, dear Count, tho' Shame will affect me as long as I live. Would to God my Absence, and the Pain which I endure, would make Amends for your Loss. Remove the Child which brings you this Letter, that you may not have the Object of your Misfortune before your Eyes. If possible, think of me once more after reading this Letter. You will never see me again.

As soon as the Count had read this Letter, he left me, and went to see after my Husband : But he was gone, and nobody knew whither. This put me in a fresh Surprize, and my Heart was all in an Up-  
 roar,



roar. I had found my first Husband again, and I knew that I could not enjoy them both: But, what Passion is apt to hearken to Reason less than Love? It was to me a most dreadful Choice to think whom I should chuse; for I belonged to the last as much as to the first; and nothing was more terrible to me than to leave one of the two, tho' I was convinced of the indispensable Necessity thereof. In the mean time Sir R— was gone, and the Count would not rest till he should see his Friend again: He dispatched therefore immediately a Messenger to the Harbour, to hinder him from embarking for some other Place, if that should be his Intention. Whilst the Messenger was gone to execute the Count's Orders, I entertained him with Discourse, and told him, that I had chosen Sir R— for my Husband spontaneously, and of my own Motion; and that I had been at a Loss how to recompense his generous Friendship, better than by Love. I know enough of this, said the Count; neither you, nor my Friend has offended me, it is a Destiny which is unfathomable to us. After a few Hours Sir R— came back again, who had been upon the Point of taking Shipping. He thanked the Count in a very respectful Manner for having caused him to return. I desire nothing more than to take Farewel  
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of you, said he to the Count, and of your Confort: Grant me but this Satisfaction, and I assure you it shall be my last Request while I live. Immediately he took me by the Hand, and led me to the Count: Here, said he, do I surrender to you my Spouse, and from this Moment do I change my Love into Respect for her. He would have taken his Leave of us; but the Count would not let him go. No, said he, I would have you stay with us, and see that I comply with your Desire of beginning Marriage again with my Wife, and with the same Satisfaction as I did before the Commencement of my Disasters: She is still as dear to me as she was then: Her Heart is noble, and is neither changed nor diminished in its Sincerity—She did not know that I was still living. No, my dear Friend, stay with us; why would you leave us? Perhaps it is from a Suspicion of my being jealous? I hope not, for that would be offending the Fidelity of my Wife, and the Confidence which I always had in you. Pray Madam, added the Count to me, intreat Sir R—to stay with us: But I had scarce so much Power as to say to him, Why will you leave us, when my Husband presses you to stay here? and I must certainly never have loved you, if your Departure should be indifferent to me: At  
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least stay in Amsterdam, if you will not live with us at our House. I shall love you, without telling you of it any further ; and tho' I shall cease to be your own, yet shall the Love for my Husband not hinder my shewing constant Marks of the highest Esteem and Friendship for you. In short, my Intreaties had that good Effect that he consented to stay in Amsterdam. He often took a Dinner with us ; and carried himself as nobly as can be imagined : And should I have been less virtuous than I was, yet his generous Behaviour would have kept me within the Bounds of Decency. He acted as tho' he had never been my Husband : No, not one Word of Intimacy came from his Mouth or Looks : As he had behaved to me before I was married to him, so he did now. He entertained me with his Friendship, and great Regard for me, and promoted mine and my Count's Satisfaction by sacrificing his own. He was often whole Days with me alone ; and should he then have talked of former Times, I believe I should have been imprudent enough to have heard him : But who knows whether I have not inadvertently sent him many a Glance from my Eyes, as a mute Confession of my Love, notwithstanding my Conscienciousness when I was with him, and notwithstanding the great Love



Love I had for my Count ; who started when he perceived Carolina, and had rather seen that she had quitted our House ; but I begg'd of him, not to deprive me of her Company : Have you trusted to my Virtue, said I to him, then I will tell you that I am sure of yours. He was so affected with the Fate of the two Children which he had had by Carolina, that it would occasion a Melancholy in him for several Hours together. In the mean time he behaved to Carolina very kindly ; and tho' he would often indulge a Vein of Pleasantry with us, yet he would always take Care not to reflect upon her, nor to offend me, by the Matter or Manner of it.

What has happened to us hereafter, I will relate at another Opportunity ; but shall at present give this brief Summary of my Husband the Count's Absence, *viz.* That the Russians had possessed themselves of the Village in which my Husband lay so desperately ill, that while the Swedes were compelled to retire, they left him behind, as dead : But recovering afterwards, he was sent Prisoner to Moscovy as a Swedish Officer. For fear of being the sooner delivered up to the Swedes, he concealed his Name, and passed for a Captain. The Description of his Misfortunes, and of what